

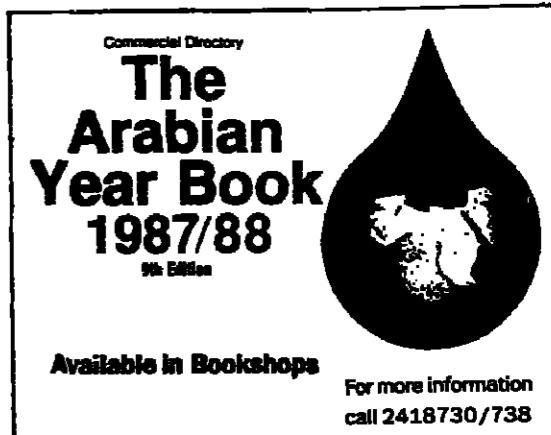


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Management contracts may be called into question

Hilton owners blacklisted by boycott office

By Jadranka Porter

THE management contracts between Arab-owned hotels and the Hilton International owned by the British Ladbrooke Group PLC are likely to be called into question after the British company was put on the Arab Boycott of Israel blacklist last week, the Israel boycott office in Kuwait said yesterday.

Kuwait's Director of Customs Ibrahim Al Ghanim, who is in charge of the Israel boycott office, said if the relationship is established it will have serious repercussions for the Hilton's management contracts in the Arab world.

The Israel boycott office in Kuwait was unaware of the link between the Ladbrooke Group, which has business interests in Israel, and the Hilton International. The issue was apparently not raised at the meeting in Damascus.

Inquiries

"We shall make our own inquiries and study the situation. If the link is established the Arab-owned hotels will be given ample time to make alternative arrangements," said Al Ghanim.

Mustafa Aboul Ainen, the sales manager of the Hilton Hotel at Fujairah told the Arab Times in a telephone interview that the hotel had not been notified of the issue by the head office.

The spokesman for Bahrain Hilton declined to comment, as did the sales manager at Abu Dhabi Hilton. The Kuwait Hotels Company, which used to own the Kuwait Hilton ended its management contract with the Hilton International in early January. The hotel, at present operating under the name of the Kuwait International Hotel, is now owned by the Kuwait Investment Authority and is managed by the Kuwait Hotels Company.

The Arab boycott attempts to

prevent multinational corporations who do business with Israel from doing business in the Arab world.

Some 11,000 mostly Western firms are blacklisted in Arab countries. Al Ghanim said that in fact the number is much smaller because the list includes the companies and their subsidiaries. Among the banned firms is the American Gulf and Western company and its 1,000 subsidiaries and the British BTR company which has 974 subsidiaries, Al Ghanim said.

Last year Kuwait and many other Arab states lifted the ban on the US Coca Cola company after it had been on the blacklist for 22 years.

Significant

"The Coca Cola company has only given a licence to Israelis so that they can use the name but does not actually have a factory there. We don't find this significant," said Al Ghanim.

Similarly the Ford Motor Co. was dropped from the list in 1986 after a 20-year-long ban.

Al Ghanim claimed that the boycott of companies doing business with Israel has been effective. He cited examples of numerous firms which claim to have stopped doing business with Israel and wish to be taken off the blacklist. This can be done only under condition that firms in question execute in an Arab country a project identical in size and value with the one it carried out in Israel, said Al Ghanim.

This has been the case with the American Baxter Travenol Laboratories Inc., which was dropped from the blacklist last week. The firm which was blacklisted for building a chemical plant in Israel, is now committed out in Israel, said Al Ghanim.

Drifting mines from the former Iraq-Iran war zone, torn from their moorings by winter storms, remain a hazard for shipping in the Gulf. Up to 200 floating mines may be left from the war, mainly in the northern part of the waterway.

About 20 mines have been neutralised since a ceasefire took effect on Aug 20 in the eight-year Gulf war.

A floating mine was believed responsible for an explosion on Jan 5 that triggered a fire aboard the Saudi Arabian tanker Sagaris as it sailed into the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz.

The Greek master and five other crew members of Greek and Sri Lankan nationality aboard the 36,904-ton tanker died in the blast. The vessel later split in two and sank.

(Continued on Page 2)



Shultz dances with an Australian actress, Dagmar Koller, at a reception to mark the end of European security conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fishing boat explodes after hitting mine in Gulf

MANAMA, Jan 17. (AP): A fishing boat exploded after hitting a floating mine today in Gulf waters northeast of Bahrain and its skipper was killed, the interior Ministry said.

A ministry statement, carried by the Gulf News Agency, said another fishing boat picked up the boat's five-member crew who were injured in the blast, and took them to a Bahraini hospital.

The fishing boat also recovered the body of the skipper, identified as Yacoub Ali Yacoub, a Bahraini national, the statement said.

The statement said an investigation was under way.

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(Continued on Page 2)

Ransom demanded

BRUSSELS, Jan 17. (Reuter): A mysterious left-wing group which says it has kidnapped former Belgian Prime Minister Paul Vandervelde has demanded today that his associates pay a \$750,000 ransom, some of it to the poor.

The note, sent to two daily newspapers by a group calling itself the Socialist Revolutionary Brigade (BSR), dubbed Vandend Boeynants, "a corrupt demagogue who has diverted big public sums to his personal profit."

Police said among the casualties were children of 10 to 15 years of age and some teachers.

Train-bus collision kills 51 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Jan 17. (Reuter): At least 51 people, mostly schoolchildren, were killed and 110 injured when a train and a bus collided today in southern Sri Lanka, police and hospital sources said.

They said the bus, carrying about 80 children returning from school, was crushed when a train hit it at an unprotected level crossing at Ahungalle, 75 km (45 miles) south of Colombo.

Witnesses said the injured were rushed to hospitals in the southern town of Galle and Balapitiya.

Galle Hospital sources said 25 people killed in the accident were

lying in its mortuary while 100 survivors were being treated.

Balapitiya Hospital sources said 26 people brought there were dead. Ten badly injured passengers were under treatment.

Police said passengers from the crowded bus as well as from the train were among the casualties.

"I counted at least 20 bodies lying in pools of blood at the spot. Books, uniforms and shoes were scattered all over," one eyewitness said.

Police said among the casualties were children of 10 to 15 years of age and some teachers.

It is okay to be workaholic

Trusting hearts last longer

MONTEREY, Calif., Jan 17. (Reuter): Cheer up, workaholics: the latest research on heart disease shows it's okay to be a fanatic about your job.

But if you're hostile, suspicious of others' motives and have a hard time controlling your anger, you are far more likely to die at an early age than your friends who are trusting souls, Dr Redford Williams of the Duke University Medical Centre said yesterday.

Behaviour

"Being a workaholic, always being in a hurry, talking fast and always interrupting are not always bad for your health," Williams told an American Heart Association forum here.

"What is bad is anger and hostility and not always being able to hide it," he said.

Williams said the latest research spells the end of the

notion that all so-called "Type A" behaviour leads to an early death from heart disease.

In fact, only some aspects of such behaviour are at fault, he said the most recent studies show.

Specifically, people who are found, via standard psychological tests, to harbour a cynical mistrust of others' motives, to frequently experience anger and to openly express that anger are "five times more likely to die from age 25 to age 50" than those without those traits, said Williams, who is a professor of psychiatry at Duke.

Williams' research was an attempt to refine studies performed in the late 1970s suggesting that impatient, ambitious, hostile people — those with Type A personalities — were more likely over time to suffer from heart disease than more easy-going individuals.

He discovered that only some aspects of Type A behaviour were linked to a greater risk of heart disease.

He found further that these aspects were predictive not only of death from heart disease but of death from all causes.

The moral: "Trusting hearts last longer," Williams told the meeting.

He advised people who flare up in a slow bank queue or constantly challenge their tennis partners' out-of-bounds calls to

teach themselves to ease up and live longer.

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This may be due in part, he said, to the fact that people with high hostility scores on psychological tests smoke more,

drink alcohol more and report more frequent hassles in their everyday life.

Is Bhutto a martyr? Court to rule

ISLAMABAD, Jan 17. (AP):

Col Zulfikar Ali Bhutto be called a martyr, even though he was hanged a decade ago as a felon? Much of Pakistan's media thinks so, but an Islamic scholar has gone to court to prove that the late prime minister and father of the current prime minister does not qualify.

Mufti Mohammad Hussain Naeem contended Bhutto did not die defending the Muslim faith, which he claims is the requirement by the Holy Quran, for martyrdom.

Naeem, the principal of the religious Jamia Naeemia School, also says the title cannot be used for a person sentenced to death on a criminal charge by the nation's highest court.

Bhutto, the Pakistan People's Party leader, ruled this volatile South Asian country from 1972 until 1977. Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq ousted him in a bloodless coup in 1977.

Suspicious

A civilian court convicted Bhutto in 1979 of planning to murder ally-turned-rival Ahmad Raza Kasuri in 1974. Kasuri was unburied when four federal security force gunmen opened fire on his car, but his father was killed, according to official records.

Bhutto claimed he was innocent, but was hanged after the Supreme Court upheld his sentence. His family and the Pakistan People's Party still insist

Zia invented the charges.

Zia ruled until last August, when he died with many of his top generals in a plane crash of

power.

"The struggle for power must end," he said in a rare acknowledgement of internal dissent.

"The demonstrations, the sit-ins and the protests are all protests (against) authority, a struggle for power."

"I am determined to set up a popular regime in the world whose basic foundation is Libya. A real popular regime and truly people's power ...," he said.

"However, all these establish-

ments are going to be abolished and their employees will go home, but something must be

Khaddafi to abolish all state institutions

ROME, Jan 17. (AP): Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi says that all state institutions, including the "security apparatus" and the news agency JANA, will be abolished this year.

In a speech last night broadcast by Libyan television and monitored in London, Khaddafi said it was the people who should rule.

"All the institutions which are traditionally considered as state institutions are to be abolished," he said in an address to a basic People's Congress, or grassroots political committee, in the municipality of Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

"These companies, these institutions and all these bodies seem to be literally imposed on you ... They are going to be abolished from this year."

Khaddafi said that although the institutions had been set up by the People's Congresses, people still considered them as "vertical and higher institutions which are outside their power and belonging to a government."

Action

A court convicted Bhutto in 1979 of planning to murder ally-turned-rival Ahmad Raza Kasuri in 1974. Kasuri was unburied when four federal security force gunmen opened fire on his car, but his father was killed, according to official records.

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ments are going to be abolished and their employees will go home, but something must be

targets in Libya in April 1986 because of what US officials called Khaddafi's role in terror attacks in Europe against Americans.

US officials said they had intelligence information that the Rabta plant had been built to produce poison gas and that West German firms helped build it.

Denied

Bonn, which at first denied the US allegation, said yesterday it had concluded that a section of the Libyan plant was equipped to make poison gas.

A West German company today said it had delivered 19 tons of a chemical solvent to Libya, adding there is a possibility that the material reached the plant in Rabta.

"We delivered 19 tons of dichlorethane to Libya in April 1988," Merck spokesman Hans-Joachim Schmitz said in Darmstadt, West Germany.

Israeli leaders rebuked West Germany today for its involvement in building the Libyan plant and threatened to "clobber" its neighbours if they deployed any such weapon against Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said he planned to confront the government in Bonn with the issue of West German involvement in the chemical weapons programme, an issue which he said Israel took "very seriously."

Tariffs

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said: "Whoever will dare to use this kind of weapon against Israeli military units or against Israeli civilian targets will be clobbered 100 times if not more."

In a possible hint at pre-emptive action against Middle Eastern states equipping themselves with chemical weapons, he added: "Israel will not tolerate even thinking about the use of this kind of means against us."

Appeal against deportation

LONDON, Jan 17. (Reuter):

More than 100 British members of parliament petitioned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today against the deportation of a Sri Lankan who says he faces persecution at home for supporting Tamil separatists.

Viraj Mendis, 32, has been in sanctuary in a church in the northern city of Manchester since 1986 to avoid a government deportation order issued after his student visa expired.

INTERNATIONAL

Police violently disperse demonstrations

14 Czech activists detained

VIENNA, Jan 17, (Reuters): Czechoslovak authorities kept 14 leading dissidents in custody today amid signs decisive action was being prepared against them after police violently broke up demonstrations they organised.

An evening television announcer yesterday read out the names, addresses and dates of birth of the 14, including playwright Vaclav Havel and Charter 77 human rights movement members Dana Nemcova and Sasha Vondra.

Police dragged them away from Wenceslas Square earlier in the day after they laid flowers to commemorate the 20th anniversary of student Jan Palach's self-immolation in the square to protest against the 1968 Soviet-led invasion.

Disrupting

The state news agency Ceteka said the 14 were detained for disrupting public order with "aggressive behaviour even despite repeated appeals to disperse by the public security force."

Public naming of the 14 before formal charges were lodged breached Czechoslovak legal procedure, dissident sources said.

"There are indications that

they are going to be kept in custody," charter activist Martin Palous told Reuters by telephone from Prague. "It is obvious that the authorities have decided to do something with them."

The Prague Communist Party daily *Vecerni Praha* has urged harsh punishment for organisers of a banned ceremony on Sunday in Palach's memory. Half a dozen young activists have been held without charges for the past three months in connection with a banned demonstration in October.

Rebuke

Police used water cannon, truncheons and tear-gas to attack crowds on Sunday and again yesterday when activists returned to the Central Square.

The violence brought a sharp rebuke from US Secretary of State George Shultz in Vienna, where Prague's Jaromir Juhane joined 34 other foreign ministers at a conference to endorse a new accord on human rights and conventional arms talks.

Several people were seen limping away on Sunday after police with alsatian dogs beat them with batons and an ambulance had to

be called for one of the injured. But the National Party newspaper *Rude Pravo* today referred to a man who "threw himself on the ground and kicked up in all directions trying to call attention to himself" after police ordered citizens to disperse.

Welcomed

Rude Pravo, in reporting the reception of the Vienna accord in other countries, gave particular prominence to Romanian reservations about the agreement's human rights provisions.

The Czechoslovak government welcomed the agreement yesterday but made no mention of the police violence.

"It is quite absurd to sign this treaty, to speak in an optimistic way, on the one hand and on the other to do what was done in Prague," said activist Palous, adding he believed the two days of demonstrations were provoked by the authorities.

Czechoslovakia's hardline leaders, while professing admiration for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policies, have ruled out any compromise with opposition groups and appear intent on containing any expansion of their activities.

Bush will become the fourth-oldest, fourth-tallest president

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (Reuters): When George Bush is sworn in Friday he will become the fourth-oldest, fourth-tallest and fourth left-handed President of the United States.

Not to mention the fourth one born in Massachusetts and the fourth elected directly from the vice-presidency.

These and many other bits of background about the 41st President are rounded up in the official press guide to the inauguration, a five-pound (two-kilo) looseleaf tome stuffed with information about the ceremony, the inaugural parade, the president, vice-president, the wives, and many other bits of



A car blazes in Miami during the rioting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Death of a motorcyclist sparks riots in Miami

MIAMI, Jan 17, (UPI): An all-night siege triggered by the death of a black motorcyclist ended in scattered rock and bottle attacks amid smoldering fires early today as heavily armed police restored calm to a black section of the city.

Overtown, a black neighbourhood, erupted last night as an estimated 100 people shot at police, set several cars and a store afire, looted businesses and threw rocks and bottles. It was the fourth outbreak of rioting in Miami this decade.

The rampage was sparked about 5:45 pm by the death of a black motorcyclist who was fleeing from police for unknown reasons. The motorcyclist was apparently shot in the head by pursuing officers. And he then collided with another vehicle, police said early today. It had not been determined if the man died from the gunshot or the collision.

Several others were hurt, including a passenger on the motorcycle and two people in the car that struck it, police said. A visiting reporter was hurt during the subsequent rioting when he wound up in the area by mistake.

Jackson Memorial Hospital spokesman Sam Cratis said one man, Clement Lloyd, was dead and another, Allan Blanchard, 24, was in critical condition — both victims of the riot. Police would not say if the two men were those on the motorcycle.

Looted

The city mobilised all its officers, blocking the inner city neighbourhood and sealing off exits from an interstate highway shortly after midnight. No curfew was imposed.

An auto parts store was looted and set afire, it burned for an hour as scattered gunfire repelled firefighters until police with shotguns and riot shields marched down the street, police Capt Larry Boemler said.

A full mobilisation was called in the Miami police department. Police spokesman Michael Mazur said of the department's 1,040 officers, at least 200 were sent to pacify Overtown.

Mayor Xavier Suarez and city commissioner Miller Dawkins, a black, struggled to quiet the crowd, which was estimated by police at between 75 and 100.

"We have not declared a state of emergency. It (the riot) has been contained. Let's keep it that way," city manager Cesar Odio said.

Police sealed off an area measuring 17 blocks by nine blocks in Overtown, and downtown Miami was deserted.

Wiring problem found in Boeing 757

LONDON, Jan 17, (AP): Two more Boeing 757 jumbo jets have been found with crossed wires leading to cargo hold fire-extinguisher bottles, bringing the total to five since compulsory checks began on Friday, the Times of London reported today.

The newspaper said the checks by engineers in the Netherlands and Canada revealed that two aircraft, both less than a year old, were wrongly wired at the Boeing plant in the United States before delivery.

Britain's Civil Aviation Authority reported on Sunday that engineers of Air 2000 found crossed wires during checks of cargo compartment warning systems following the discovery of wiring problems in two Boeing 757s in the United States.

Faulty wiring is one possibility being examined by experts investigating the British Midland Airways Boeing 737 crash at Kegworth in central England on Jan 7, in which 44 people were killed.

Reasons

But the Times said faults involving wiring to the cargo hold fire-extinguisher bottles found on the five 757s are not thought to have been a factor in that crash. For unexplained reasons, the right-hand engine of the Midland Airways 737 was shut down although it was the left-hand engine that had caught fire.

Boeing's assembly lines for 757s run beside those for 757s and efforts are now being made to ensure that similar mistakes (on 737s) were not made," the Times reported.

Boeing spokesman Tom Cole in Seattle, Washington, said in response to the report in the Times: "We're aware of the Air Holland findings and this does make five airplanes reported so far. We are looking into the technical aspects of it to see what the miswiring was or is, how they relate to each other, and what might have happened so we can correct it."

The Times said the faults in each of these two new cases were identical to the fault discovered on a Boeing 757 operated by the British airline Air 2000.

The CAA said on Sunday that the fault on the Air 2000 plane was caused by switched plugs and was immediately rectified.

The Times said today that the Air 2000 aircraft and the two latest jets found to have crossed wires were delivered within days of each other.

It said Boeing executives are now trying to trace the fitter responsible.

It reported: "A 757 belonging to Air Holland was found to have its wires crossed in checks ordered by the FAA (the US Federal Aviation Administration) following two similar faults reported (in the United States) on a Delta Airlines 757 and another belonging to Royal Brunei Airlines. Although the faults were not identical they all involved the wiring to fire-extinguisher bottles in the cargo hold."

3 killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17, (UPI): Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today more soldiers had been authorised to open fire on Palestinian stone-throwers and harsher punishments would be imposed in Israel's latest efforts to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

Three Palestinians died from Army gunfire today, on the sixth consecutive day of deaths stemming from clashes with Israeli soldiers. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, visiting paratroopers in the West Bank city of Nablus, told reporters Israel wanted peace and he was angry at Palestinian activists because "they force us sometimes to kill people. We don't want to kill them."

At least 19 Palestinians were wounded by live or plastic bullets in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. Another 12 Palestinians were wounded in their hands and legs with a newly introduced ammunition — round rubber bullets with a metal core and weighing about one ounce, the sources said.

Seven high schools were closed today in the latest number of schools closures military officials blamed on disturbances, state-run Israel Radio reported.

Soldiers today dynamited the homes of three Palestinians suspected of injuring three Israeli soldiers with stones, marking a new get-tough policy against rock throwers in the occupied territories.

Gen. Amram Mitzna, the head of central command, said today's demolitions in the West Bank town of Kalkilya were part of a new crackdown to stem an upsurge in violence. The Army said two other houses were sealed up in the town.

Soldiers also dropped leaflets from a helicopter that hovered over Kalkilya after the demolitions, warning Palestinians that soldiers would destroy the homes of anyone caught stoning Israeli targets, Arab news reports said.

The demolitions drew immediate protests from left-wing Israeli groups. Five opposition parties filed a motion of no-confidence in the government to be debated by parliament tomorrow, Israel Radio reported.

Meanwhile, new Israeli Transport Minister Moshe Katzav said today Israel should co-operate with the Soviet Union and Arab states to prevent terrorist attacks on civilian airliners.

"Israel's engagement in the war against terrorism in the air definitely compels us to co-operate with the Soviet Union," he told a news conference.

Hilton owners blacklisted by boycott office

(Continued from Page 1)

to constructing the same type of plant in Syria.

Al Ghaniem said there is nothing to stop such firms from doing business with Israel again but he stressed that their chances of being dropped from the blacklist for the second time would be extremely poor.

"We would drop a company from the blacklist for the second time only if the Arab world were in dire need of that firm's products or service" said Al Ghaniem.

Angered

The committee office in Damascus last week called for a boycott against a Soviet firm for the first time. The firm is a subsidiary of the Pierre Cardin which angered the boycott office by offering to sell to Arab states the Pierre Cardin garments made in Israel.

At its next meeting to be held in six months the committee will examine the position of companies that have been blacklisted for 20 or more years.

"Many of these companies have undergone a total change from 20 years ago. They have new shareholders, board members and company policy. Their cases should be reviewed," said Al Ghaniem.

Is Bhutto a martyr?

(Continued from Page 1)

suspicious cause. Bhutto's 35-year-old daughter, Benazir — propelled by her father's legacy — then led the Pakistan People's Party to victory last November. Pakistan's first free elections in 11 years.

Since Benazir took the prime ministerial oath on Dec 2, media frequently have referred to her late father as "shahid," or martyr.

The issue has become emotional for thousands of Bhutto family supporters who hold the late patriarch in high esteem. They claim he laid down his life for the sake of democracy and the downtrodden masses.

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Unknown gunmen kill Sri Lankan soldier

COLOMBO, Jan 17. (UPI): Unidentified gunmen today fired on Sri Lankan troops manning a checkpoint on a road in Tamil-dominated northeastern province, killing a soldier and wounding a civilian passerby, a Defense Ministry official said.

In another development, hundreds of troops backed by helicopters swept an area of southern Sri Lanka in a hunt for three Army commandos who were abducted by leftist rebels of the ethnic Sinhalese majority after a fire fight, the official said.

The official said an unknown number of "terrorists" fired at Sri Lankan troops posted at a checkpoint on a main road just outside the northeastern province town of Vavuniya, 140 miles northeast of Colombo.

Self-rule

At least one soldier was killed and a civilian passerby was wounded, he said.

The troops radiated for reinforcements, who were also fired on by the gunmen. The gunmen then fled in the direction of Vavuniya, he said.

The official said the Sri Lankan Army alerted Indian troops posted in Vavuniya to enforce a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord aimed at ending a five-

year civil war by rebels of the mostly Hindu Tamil minority.

The accord, under which Tamil-dominated northeastern province was granted limited self-rule in a bid to satisfy rebel demands for independence from the Sinhalese-controlled government, was accepted by four of five guerrilla groups, but rejected by the strongest, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The LTTE has been badly battered by the Indian force of some 60,000 men, but continues to operate from jungle hideouts, many in the Vavuniya area.

There was no word on whether the Indian troops had intercepted the attackers.

Meanwhile, some 500 Sri Lankan troops backed by helicopters pressed a search around Hungama, 210 km southeast of Colombo, for three members of a crack Army commando unit who were abducted by Sinhalese rebels of the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front.

The Defense Ministry official said the commandos were with a detachment sent to the town yesterday to conduct a house-to-house search for JVP members, who have been pressing a violent drive to oust the ruling United National Party from power.

Afghan rebels to set up interim government

ISLAMABAD, Jan 17. (Reuter): Afghan resistance groups will meet on Feb 1 to approve an interim government for Afghanistan until they say must rule Afghanistan after Soviet troops complete the scheduled Feb 15th withdrawal and Moscow ends support for Najibullah.

The alliance has also rejected Najibullah's unilateral declaration of a ceasefire in the nine-year war from Jan 1 and vowed to fight on until his government since a 1973 coup.

Hekmatyar, regarded by Western diplomats as one of the most radical of the rebel leaders, said he believed none of the guerrilla parties would name the ex-king, Zahir Shah, exiled in Rome.

Meanwhile, some 500 Sri Lankan troops backed by helicopters pressed a search around Hungama, 210 km southeast of Colombo, for three members of a crack Army commando unit who were abducted by Sinhalese rebels of the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front.

The Defense Ministry official said the commandos were with a detachment sent to the town yesterday to conduct a house-to-house search for JVP members, who have been pressing a violent drive to oust the ruling United National Party from power.

announced last week it was breaking off talks with Moscow on a future broad-based government for Afghanistan until they say must rule Afghanistan after Soviet troops complete the scheduled Feb 15th withdrawal and Moscow ends support for Najibullah.

"Mujahedeen are preparing for a major and joint attack and are holding a shura (council) to discuss the question of security in Jalalabad city after it falls," Seerat said.

A spokesman for Hezb-e-Islami, one of the seven parties active in the province on the Pakistan border, said it was difficult to predict when the guerrillas would take the city, target of frequent rebel rocket attack.

However, he added: "It will easily be before the Russians leave."

Rebel sources said an important Soviet farm project at Ghazabat near Jalalabad had been overrun by guerrillas in November. Another farm, Hadda, was being infiltrated by the rebels in close fighting with government troops, they said.

Last week the Kabul government accused Pakistan of using helicopters to transport guerrilla leaders and foreign advisers to Ghazabat farm.



Two Afghan children sit in a wheelbarrow during a break from work at a food distribution centre at the Nasirabagh refugee camp outside Peshawar. (Reuter wirephoto)

Secret talks to ease Korean tensions

SEOUL, Jan 17. (Reuter): Senior American and South and North Korean military officers held secret talks today in what Seoul officials said was a bid to fix an agenda for reducing tensions along the North-South border.

For the first time since the 1953 truce ending the Korean War, delegations from the communist North and the American-led United Nations Command met without prior announcement in a closed-door session of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC).

The South Korean Defence Ministry confirmed without comment Seoul press reports that the meeting took place at the Panmunjom border village, and that the aim was to "fix an agenda for reduction of tensions in the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas."

It was the 445th meeting of the commission in the past 35 years, but the first to which newsmen were not invited. The motive of the UN command, which called the session, was not immediately clear.

After three years when dialogue between the Koreas was completely suspended, the two sides resumed contacts through

Site purified for Hirohito's mausoleum

TOKYO, Jan 17. (UPI): A solemn religious rite purified a wooded area in suburban Tokyo today for construction of the imperial mausoleum where Japan's late Emperor Hirohito will be buried.

About 10 officials attended the traditional ceremony held in accordance with Japan's indigenous Shinto religion and prayed for smooth and safe completion of the construction.

Hirohito, the longest-reigning monarch in Japan's 2,600-year-old "Chrysanthemum Throne," died of duodenal cancer on Jan 7 at age 87.

Palace officials said the 32.8-foot-high, oval-shaped mausoleum will be built in a 26,750-square-foot area adjacent to

the "takayu" of Hirohito's parents, Emperor Taisho and Empress Teimei. It will be located in Hachioji in the western suburb of Tokyo.

The Imperial Household Agency officials said an underground stone block will be built to place Hirohito's coffin after a state funeral scheduled for Feb 24.

It will take about one year to complete the entire mausoleum, the officials said.

Amal-Hezbollah truce in the offing

Shiite fighting in Beirut eases

BEIRUT, Jan 17. (Reuter): Syrian troops brought relative calm to Beirut's southern suburbs today after rival Muslim Shiite groups exchanged sporadic fire overnight.

Security sources said intermittent rocket and machinegun fire between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah in the Hay Madi and Rawdet areas died away after the Syrians called for a halt in the fighting.

The troops are among some 25,000 Syrians deployed in Lebanon.

Shiite leaders are also seeking a long-term truce between Amal and Hezbollah, the Tehran

backed and financed party, which are battling for control of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites.

Political sources said the vice-president of the Higher Shiite Council, Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine, met Hezbollah leaders yesterday for the second time in four days and discussed ways to end the conflict.

Nearly three weeks of fighting in Beirut's Shiite southern suburbs and in southern Lebanon have left at least 140 people dead and 150 wounded.

Positions

A four-day lull continued in Jubah in southern Lebanon after devastating house-to-house battles but rival Amal and Hez-

zbollah gunmen clung to their positions in and around the small hilltop town.

The lull allowed the Lebanese Red Cross on Sunday to remove the bodies of 11 Amal militiamen and nine Hezbollah from the shattered town, from whence all but 500 of the 6,000 residents have fled.

The Red Cross said it was awaiting word on whether it could carry away more casualties from Jubah.

Some of the bodies were

brought to the southern suburbs of Beirut where thousands of Amal and Hezbollah supporters held separate funeral processions.

56 more drug smugglers executed

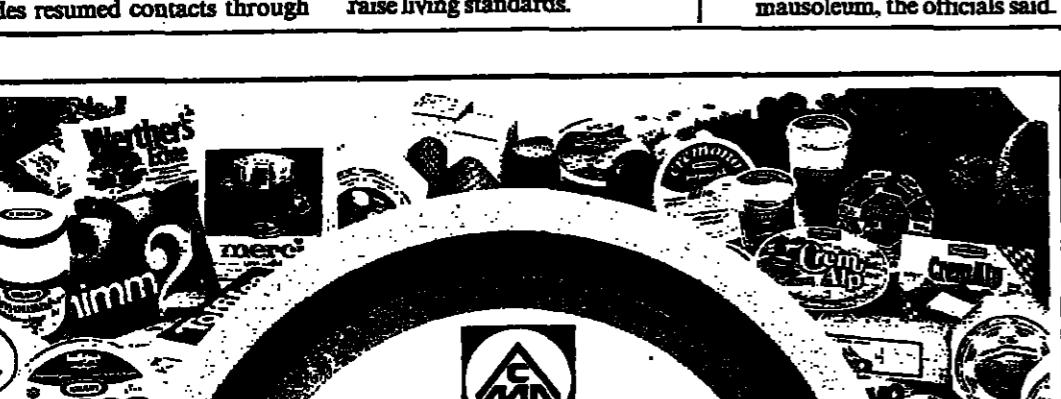
ATHENS, Jan 17. (UPI): The Iranian authorities executed another 56 drug smugglers in Tehran and other cities, as part of a tough new campaign to stamp out trafficking, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said today.

The latest executions brought to 103 the total number of drug smugglers executed in Iran since the beginning of the year.

The news agency, monitored in Athens, said 56 drug traffickers were executed in Tehran and 16 in other cities. It quoted a source in the Prime Ministry as saying those executed included three Afghans and a Pakistani.

The traffickers were executed by hanging and yesterday's executions were the largest number in one day, since Iran launched the tough anti-narcotics campaign last month, IRNA said.

Besides Tehran, where seven people were hanged, the 16 other cities where executions were carried out included Isfahan, Urmieh, Mashad, Bakhtaran, Shiraz, Kerman, Karaj, Hamadan, Zahedan, Birjand, Tabriz, Nahavand, Qom, Gorgan, Rasht and Varamin.



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UAE deputy premier to visit China

ABU DHABI, Jan 17. (Reuters): United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nahayan today accepted an invitation to visit China but no date has been fixed, the official Emirates news agency WAM said.

Sheikh Hamdan will be the highest ranking UAE official to visit China since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1985.

Saudi relief for Bangladesh

DAMMAM, Jan 17 (KUNA): Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz has issued directives to send urgent relief assistance to Bangladesh including SR18 million (about \$6 million) in cash, medicine and other medical requirements for victims of the train collision near Dhaka last Monday.

3,500 students to graduate

3,500 students are expected to graduate during the academic year 1988/1989, according to Dr Mustafa Marafi, the Dean of Registration and Admission, at Kuwait University.

He expects 1,500 graduates during the first semester and 2,000 during the second semester.

Clarification

OFFICER in charge of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kuwait Ali Al Zatari has clarified that the basic agreement between the government of Kuwait and the UNDP has not yet been signed, but is in the process of being reviewed for signature by both parties in a few months time.

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Indian labourers (men)
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Shaya & Shariff Inc.
Behind Behbehani Car Showroom
Between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm only.
Bring along passport copies.

Gabid prepares for OIC foreign ministers conference

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Agencies): Hamid Al Gabid, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, held talks today with Kuwaiti leaders in preparation for a meeting of foreign ministers from the 46-nation grouping.

Gabid, 47, a former prime minister of Niger who became OIC secretary general Jan 1, was received by the HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and later held talks with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Differences

The annual foreign ministers' conference is set for March 13-16 in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh, where the OIC is headquartered.

In an interview published in the Saudi newspaper Al Riyadh,

Gabid told Al Riyadh the OIC "deals with the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) as a Palestinian state," and affirmed it will back "any measure the PLO adopts to liberate its territory."

Referring to the Muslim minority in the Philippines who have been struggling for autonomy in the southern Mindanao regions for 17 years, Gabid pointed out that the OIC had helped negotiate an accord between the rebels and the Manila government, but that it has not taken effect.

Goodwill

"There is goodwill on the part of Philippines President Corazon Aquino but it seems she does not have the freedom of action to translate this goodwill," Gabid was quoted as saying.

Gabid also said his priorities were to achieve more co-ordination in the group.



HH the Amir, chairman of OIC received yesterday the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Hamid Al Gabid.

Palestinian festival opens

By Lima Al Khalafawi



A group of Palestinian students singing patriotic songs at the opening of the festival.

Palestinian embassy in Kuwait.

The festival exhibited Palestinian heritage, children's paintings and other arts which revealed enthusiasm of Palestinian residents in Kuwait. Palestinian handicraft in the form of exquisite embroidery was also

exhibited. Young children also participated with donations of their drawings of Al Aqsa Mosque and the national flag.

30 Palestinian youths also wore army uniforms and marched proudly, singing revolutionary songs.

DGCA to regulate departure fees

CONTACTS are currently underway between the Ministry of Finance and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to regulate the implementation of the cabinet decision on imposing departure fees on passengers leaving the country via Kuwait International Airport.

A local daily has reported that the Minister of Service Affairs, Essa Al Mazidi, assigned the director of the DGCA, Sheikh Mubarak Al Abdullah, to maintain contacts with the Ministry of Finance to agree on the ways to regulate the executive procedures of the decision.

Efforts are currently being exerted to establish good technique so that the fees imposed on passengers can be collected without causing any inconvenience.

The mosque, to be built in Khaitan's southern extension, will include accommodation facilities for the imam, stand-by power station and other services.

The project is to be finalised within 500 days, according to the contract.

Kuwait Sheraton nominated best hotel for 1988

IN the first ever MEED business travel poll, MEED readers voted for their favourite hotel, travel service and airline serving the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. A total of 530 questionnaires from 35 countries, including most Arab states were returned to MEED House—a tremendous response by any standard.

Readers voted for the hotels on the basis of both service and value for money. The totals were aggregated to seek the best overall.

Sheraton won the best hotel citations for Abu Dhabi, Doha and Kuwait Sheratons. All three were also voted top hotel restaurants in their respective cities.

Sheraton was deemed to have the best executive club facilities—a tribute to the group's excellent incentive scheme for business travellers.

The awards were distributed at the Business Travel Award Ceremony in Bahrain on Nov 27, 1988.

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (KUNA): Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houth on Tuesday signed a KD 1.091 million dinar contract with a local company for construction and maintenance of a mosque.

The mosque, to be built in Khaitan's southern extension, will include accommodation facilities for the imam, stand-by power station and other services.

The project is to be finalised within 500 days, according to the contract.

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VIDEO CORNER

'Tis folly to be wise in Parador

By Galli Seery

If I was engaged in a conversation with someone, and I'd just asked them what they'd been up to for the last year, and they gazed wistfully off beyond me and replied, "Well, if you'd never seen the moon over Parador, if you'd never seen it floating over the 'Gulf of Sorrows,' or smelt gardenias in the air, or seen the sunlight on the red tiles of the rooftops...." I would almost certainly hit him with my notepad and move away rapidly.

Interestingly enough, in *Moons over Parador*, which stars Richard Dreyfuss and Raul Julia, the only time the moon

comes into question is in those opening words, and in a penultimate shot. It's just a way of getting Parador into the film—which in turn is just a way of getting Richard Dreyfuss onto our screens.

As has become so common recently, the film is a one-man show, with Dreyfuss very much in charge. He plays Jack Noah, an actor who happens to be in Parador shooting an action film in which he plays a Don Johnson look-alike without the Ferrari. He ends up giving an impersonation of the country's dictator, to the dictator, which fortunately, he survives.

The people love Alphonse Simms their dictator — so

much so, that they don't miss the national assembly. There is a democracy of sorts however. They can vote either Blue Simms or White Simms — they get the same leader, they just choose the colour of the rosette.

But the dictator has a heart attack shortly afterwards, and one of his aides remembers Noah's impersonation. Roberto Stroussel is the least amiable of the dictator's staff. He decides that Jack Noah will have to take over. "Why don't you get Roberto de Niro or Dustin Hoffman?" shrieks Noah. "Not available!" yells back Roberto.

Noah doesn't particularly

want to get involved. "Play the part or I'll kill you," explains Roberto reasonably. "You'd make a very good dictator," observes Noah. "Thank you," responds Roberto.

Of course, the dictator's personal entourage can tell immediately that it is not the real Alphonse Simms, but as one of them so rightly points out, "where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise."

Then Noah meets up with the dictator's mistress and she shows him another aspect of Parador, the rather quaintly portrayed poverty and suffering. Noah finds it quite astounding that there should be

guerrillas out there who hate him.

This film has a plot which can't be sustained convincingly beyond the length and scope of the average pop video. The dialogue is unconvincing, the supporting roles are played poorly—the fat American CIA man should get an award as the least convincingly played role of the decade.

Worse still, the film is smug and patronising, and totally unrealistic. Dreyfuss puts in some typically talented, frenetic and amusing acting, but rarely manages to lift the film very far beyond the asinine and contrived.

praise *Split Decisions*. You know the story off by heart—Eddie is a promising boxer, set to join the 1988 Olympic team, already promised a place in college. Ray, his brother is a professional fighter in over his head who refuses to throw his next fight against the vicious Pedroza. He is killed. Father (and coach) Gene Hackman tries to dissuade Eddie from challenging killer Pedroza to a bout, but finally helps to train him for the big fight.

There's nothing really wrong with *Split Decisions*, and the strong cast includes Jennifer Beals (*Flashdance*). However, the film ultimately hits the canvas under the sheer weight of the clichés which are trotted out again and again.

Feds could well have been entitled *FBI Academy*. After watching comedies about how policemen, drivers, stewardesses, soldiers and various other groups are trained, it is difficult to find much new ground in the *FBI*. Two girls (Rebecca DeMornay and Maria Gross) are inducted into a new group of male trainees, and encounter the usual problems of bias and prejudice. One is physically strong but without any capability for learning, and vice versa. Of course, they help each other out and after busting a few bank robbers, scoring straight A's and shooting straight 100's, they finally make it into the ranks of the US highest law enforcement agency.

Two other films which will appeal to the action hungry are *Cross Mission*, a story of drug busting in Latin America, and *Search and Destroy*, another Vietnam thriller.

THE above films are by courtesy of VFI Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Nauf, Salhiya, Tel: 2432805; Video Club, Salhiya, Tel: 5724372.

No evidence of realism

Debra Winger and Tom Berenger in *Betrayed*.

she tries to oppose his repugnant activities. Yet the performance of Winger and Berenger and supporting cast imbue the film with an undeniably power, and in fact it shot straight up to number 2 at the American box office. Truth may be interesting—but a bit of stretching makes it more exciting.

The Merchant/Ivory team are known for sedate, period classics such as *A Room With a View* and *Heat and Dust*. Their latest film *The Deceivers* is set in the 1820's, but differs from their previous efforts in that it is a gory yarn about historical cult sect. The Thugs or Deceivers as they were known, strangled and robbed as part of

a secret cult dedicated to the greater glory of the goddess Kali. With the help of a renegade Thug—but without the approval of his superior officer—Captain Savage (Pierce Brosnan) infiltrates the group via a change of clothes, staining his body and passing himself off as Gopal the weaver. No questions asked, he is first put to work as a grave-digger, but, of course, he is asked to indulge in a spot of strangling. Initially forced into the practice to prevent his cover from being blown, Savage, under the influence of the cult's mass rituals, grows to enjoy the task.

Although the film has psychological pretensions, this is fundamentally a stiff upper rippling yarn. And a British chap ultimately knows his duty. When the chips are down the cavalry can be expected to do their stuff to rescue even a briefly discredited fellow officer. Dripping with local colour, including the sound of scrunching necks, *The Deceivers* is an intimate historical epic which should appeal to all the not too squeamish.

Gene Hackman is a popular actor whose name alone will give a good push to any film. The director, David Drury, came up with one of the best recent British thrillers, *Defence of the Realm*. But apart from that it is hard to find much to

say about the film's psychological pretensions, this is



Cuban art exhibition

MORE than 53 paintings by Cuban artists are on show at an art exhibition which opened on Sunday at the Kuwait National Museum.

The abstract paintings depict Latin American legends and detail some aspects of life in South America.

The ten-day exhibition was organised by the Kuwait Formative Arts Society and the Cuban embassy in Kuwait. It is open to public daily from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm. Picture on left shows visitors admiring some of the paintings on show.

Ahmed Kart Racing JAN 20: Kart racing starts at Ahmadi KOC track at 1.30 pm. Gates open to spectators. Entrance: 500 fils. All are welcome.

PBAK Elections JAN 20: 6 pm. The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait will hold their annual general elections. All PBAK members are requested to attend. For details call Sarah Macarimbang—Tel: 4843447.

Second Fillipino non-pro bowling JAN 20: 8.30 am: Zamboanga City vs Paranaque; San Juan vs Valenzuela; 11.30 am: Manila vs Las Pinas; Caloocan City vs Quezon City; 2.30 pm: Mandaluyong vs Baguio City; Cavitte City vs Makati.

The tournament has been jointly sponsored by Dollarco and Holiday Inn.

Laser Sailing FEB 3: Start of Messilah Beach laser club's spring series. Laser owners and others interested are welcome. For details contact David Clark: 4845171/2425947; P. Shepherd — 4841513/5314957; P. Berry — 3924174.

* All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab's Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 World News via Satellite
10.00 Imraa Fi Duwahah: Arabic serial; part 5. Starring: Aida Abdul Aziz, Salah Zulfikar, Tayseer Fahmi, Mohsin Sarhan
10.30 News Summary/ Good Morning

11.00 Saghir Al Al Hayat: local Arabic serial; part 5; starring Hayat Al Fahad, Zainab Al Dabi, Hind Kamel, Dawood Hussein, Mohammad Sayyed Essa

12.00 The Illusions of David Copperfield
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran/ Close-down

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Bambu: animated feature
5.15 Eureka
6.00 Liqa Fi Al Zakira: "Abdullah Bin Mazar" Historical serial

12.30 News Summary
12.35 World News via Satellite
1.00 Holy Quran/ Close-down



Ben Kingsley plays Gandhi, tonight on KTV2.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Transformers: cartoon serial
6.30 Prestige: "Big Henry." A child is forced to lead a harsh life on a farm.

7.30 Mutual of Omaha: a programme on wildlife.

8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law: local programme

8.55 Matlock: "The Rat Pack." Matlock is put in a difficult position by a client accused of murder.

9.40 The Cosby Show: Dr Huxtable becomes a plumber.... Comedy

10.10 Feature Film: "Gandhi". Starring: Ben Kingsley and Candice Bergen. 1982 production, directed by Richard Attenborough.

12.00 News Summary, followed by Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Stars
Starring: Jackie Chan
Al Salimya Funoon centre Performance

Al Hamra The Come Back
Starring: Holly Palance, Jack Jones Drive-In

Yom Mar Yom Helu (Arabic)
Starring: Fatem Hamama, Mohammad Muneeb Al Firdous

Paap Ko Jalaakha Raakha Kar Doonga (Hindi)
Dharmendra, Anita Raj, Govinda, Farah Fahsheel Open-Air

Fakira (Hindi)
Al Fahsheel

Al Fatimah Al Makalaat (Arabic)
Al Jaha

Fun Back Granada

Snake in Eagles Shadow Sulabibhak Athinumappuram (Malayalam)

Al Jeeb My Lucky Stars
Almadi Drive-in Al Taqreer (Arabic)

Air-India holds reception

AIR-INDIA, Kuwait, recently held a reception for its staff and travel agents at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Above: Air-India staff with some of the travel agents

A Special New Year Offer from VGP.

Over 2000 housing plots in

VGP

JAYANTHI TOWN PHASE II near MADRAS



Near TRIVENI ACADEMY International Residential School.

A fast developing township at Matur-Padapal (Govt. Approval DTCP/PLN. 669/88).

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- High School
- Library
- Community Hall
- Hospital
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- Marriage Hall
- Children's Park
- Ladies Club
- 24-hour water & electricity

Few plots are also available at VGP Brindavan Garden. Also available flats at Saldapet and Velachery

Few plots for immediate possession at VGP Victory House, Mount Road, Madras.

Hurry! Book now before land prices go up!

VGP HOUSING PRIVATE LIMITED

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PRAYERS

Fajr	5.20 am
Zehr	11.59
Asr	2.55 pm
Maghrib	5.14
Isha	6.36

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum SAT — Thurs: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Arabian Gulf St

Tareq Rajab Museum SAT — Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House

SAT — Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts—rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Sultan Gallery

ANN Eid: Photographs of Kuwait, on show at the gallery, Thumayan Al Ghannam Bldg. Al Soor St. Open daily from 8-8pm.

EXHIBITION of lithographs by three 19th century Orientalists. Open from 9 am to 1 pm, 5 to 9 pm, at the gallery located in Zahra Complex, Salma.

Ghadir Gallery UNTIL JAN 24: Kuwaiti artist Awaifi Al Shatty will display a selection of her latest paintings at the gallery. It will be open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Kuwait Society for Formative Arts JAN 27 to Feb 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

THEATRE Kuwait Players JAN 27 to Feb 9: The Kuwait Players present Alice in Wonderland, a musical fantasy directed by Carol Jolley. It will be performed at the

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EAT to live, and do not live to eat — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

Divisions plaguing Afghan guerrillas

By Denholm Barnetson

ASADABAD, Afghanistan (UPI): White or green flags fluttering from burned-out buildings illustrate the deep divisions plaguing Asadabad, where rebel factions have established rival governments since taking over the provincial capital three months ago.

No armed clashes have taken place so far, but the dispute within the ranks of Islamic guerrillas fighting to oust the Soviet-backed Afghan government portends other power struggles once the Soviets and the Kabul regime of President Najibullah are no longer there to unify the guerrilla factions.

Asadabad, 120 miles (190 km) northeast of Kabul in Kunar province, was abandoned by government forces and occupied by rebels Oct. 11, becoming one of the first provincial capitals to fall under guerrilla control since Moscow began withdrawing its troops May 15. The pullout is to be completed by Feb 15 under UN-mediated accords.

But within a few weeks of taking over Asadabad both the seven-party Pakistan-based Afghan rebel alliance and the rival Ahl-e-Hadith guerrilla group, which recently gained in strength due to Arab funding, had formed provincial governments.

Damaged

Asadabad, which had a pre-war population of 30,000 but is now occupied almost entirely by guerrillas, lies in a picturesque valley of the Hindu Kush Mountains. It has been severely damaged by years of rocket attacks by the resistance and bombings by government forces following the rebel seizure.

Dogs scavenge for scraps in rubble of mud and stone buildings. A few makeshift stores sell fruit, nuts, clothing and military gear lifted from dead Soviet and Afghan soldiers at the war front.

A white flag on one rooftop indicates the building is held by Ahl-e-Hadith supporters, while a green flag shows allegiance to the seven-party alliance. Most of the banners are white.

Both sides have appointed their own governors and established judicial systems ready to administer harsh Islamic justice, a police force, schools, as well as "government departments" of finance, transport, agriculture and municipal affairs.

Both claim the support of a

majority of the population of Kunar Province, which lies in a rugged mountainous region where the Afghan civil war began in 1978. Hostilities appear to have stopped.

"This is our land. We must be allowed to control our land," said Wali Ullah Ghulam, an official of Ahl-e-Hadith. The group adheres to the Wahabi sect of Islam that strictly follows the Holy Quran and is practiced widely in Saudi Arabia. The sect's few followers in Afghanistan are concentrated in Kunar.

The Ahl-e-Hadith was formed in 1983 as a splinter group of the powerful Hezbe-Islami rebel organization of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. But as non-member of the seven-party alliance it receives none of the US and Chinese weapons that are funnelled through Pakistan to the guerrillas.

Instead, it is backed by rich Arab nations apparently seeking to promote Wahabism in Afghanistan. Unlike other Afghan guerrilla groups, it pays its fighters a salary.

However, diplomats and analysts in Pakistan say the Ahl-e-Hadith is unlikely to gain support throughout the country. "They're trying to buy influence," said a Western diplomat. "I don't discount the danger, but it will be hard to pull it off."

Co-operation

A military co-operation agreement between the party and the alliance shows the Ahl-e-Hadith has 1,862 fighters in Kunar to 1,740 for the seven-party grouping.

The combined force is threatening the Nangarhar provincial capital of Jalalabad, 55 miles (90 km) south of Asadabad.

"Jalalabad will be taken soon by our fighters, and we will set up a government there," said Ghulam, a short-haired man in his 30s. "If the alliance won't let us, then there will be two governments there as well."

Moulavi Ghulam Haider, the deputy governor of Kunar from Ahl-e-Hadith, says the party has proposed a coalition government with the alliance, but is insisting on taking the governor's post.

"We offered to form a coalition. They refused," said Haider, an elderly man with his long beard dyed bright orange with henna in accordance with a Muslim custom.

Cracks appear in Moscow-Hanoi ties

By Clayton Jones

HANOI: Urban teens in Vietnam wear Levi jeans. Traders use buffalo-head nickels and Roosevelt dimes. And many Vietnamese watch American videos (although Jane Fonda's *Workout Tape* has yet to hit Hanoi).

"Almost the only American thing missing in Vietnam is a McDonald's fast-food restaurant," one Western diplomat says.

So why is Vietnam still so close to the Soviet Union?

Vietnamese themselves are asking the same question these days. In all but foreign policy, the Soviets appear to be losing favour with their closest Asian ally.

"I tell the Soviets, frankly, the Vietnamese youth are looking at other cultures," says Ha Quang Du, secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Youth Union. "I once enjoyed Russian literature. But I need other kinds now."

A diplomatic divorce, like Egypt's 1972 ouster of Soviet advisers, is hardly imminent between two countries locked together by history and mutual interests. Vietnam receives massive Soviet aid, while the Soviet Navy uses strategically located Cam Ranh Bay naval and air force base.

But small cracks in an otherwise solid alliance are appearing. "Young people look more to the West than to the Soviet Union," says Vietnamese writer, Nguyen Khai.

Top leaders admit to some "confusion" on Vietnam's ties with other Communist-led nations. "This confusion can (produce) policies which are not quite clear-sighted," said former Prime Minister Pham van Dong in an interview with the Monitor.

In economics, Vietnam is going its own way. Conditions in

Endless scandal dominates the scene

Lots of money changes hands in Japanese politics

By Daniel Sneider

TOKYO: "Japanese politics cost lots of money."

That simple statement by veteran political insider Shigeo Hayasaka explains the seemingly endless corruption scandal that has dominated the political scene for the last six months.

The so-called "Recruit scandal" has touched an amazing array of people, from top leaders of the ruling party to well-known businessmen and even some senior bureaucrats. All of them bought unlisted shares of Recruit Cosmo, a real estate development firm before the company went public. Most sold at a healthy profit shortly after.

In the Recruit case, Hirayama Ezo, founder of the Recruit group, offered key leaders a sure-fire deal. But behind one man's attempt to buy influence lies a system that virtually cements a link between money and politics, political analysts say.

Politicians need enormous funds simply to stay in office. Businessmen, farm organizations, and others seek access to

the powerful axis of bureaucrats and politicians that determines policy. They win that access with money.

The phenomenon is so well known, and even accepted, that the Japanese have a name for it — *kozo oshoku* or "structural kozu." Though Japanese are mostly cynical about getting rid of structural corruption, the sheer scale of the Recruit case has been shocking.

The Recruit case "is just the tip of the iceberg," says Hayasaka. He should know. Until a few years ago, Hayasaka was the personal secretary to Japan's most infamous political boss, former prime minister Kakuei Tanaka.

Expenses

Individual politicians, Hayasaka says, are driven by the constant need to raise money — for daily expenses and for huge war chests to fight for re-election. But there is a "gap" between the costs of politics and legitimate income. The need to fill that gap, he argues, is the "biggest reason for structural corruption."

Take a typical four-time ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) member of the Diet (parliament).

His monthly operating expenses total 10 million yen (about \$80,000). About 2.3 million yen goes to pay a staff of 15 aides. Another 800,000 yen is spent on attending weddings and other parties that require customary gifts of 10,000 yen. Office expenses come to 2 million yen. The remainder — about \$40,000 a month — funds the lavish winning-and-dining of guests that is crucial to building personal relationships here.

At the same time, the politician must raise money for his re-election. This can cost at least 200 to 300 million yen for everything from flyers to drinking parties with local campaign organizers.

If the Dietman strictly followed the law, his income couldn't come close to these costs. The state funds only a small office with two aides, limited travel to the home district, and certain mailing costs. The law limits a candidate to spending only 15 million yen (about \$120,000) on elections. It restricts organizations to a donation of no more than 1.5 million yen (\$12,000) to each candidate.

As a result, says LDP leader and former Trade Minister Michio Watanabe, politicians "look for some kind of loop-hole." The preferred method, he says, is to form multiple support organizations, each of which can receive donations for the candidate. Top politicians, such as Prime Minister Noboru Takeshi, have organizations with thousands of members, each paying hefty membership fees.

Fund-raising parties are numerous, and a single one can yield as much as 50 million yen (about \$400,000). Companies regularly instruct their employees to buy tickets, although only a fraction of the ticket holders actually attend the party.

The soaring Tokyo stock market has become a favoured source of money. Politicians set up paper companies for stock speculation, often using the names of friends and relatives. They are aided by stock deals like the one offered by Recruit or by insider tips. Before an election, brokers are said to help politicians by deliberately pushing up the value of so-called "political stocks."

Finally politicians "receive

under-the-table commissions from corporations or other organizations" for favours, says Hayasaka.

The higher a politician rises, the more his expenses rise and the more he gets tied into this cycle. Political leaders parcel out money to their younger followers in exchange for loyalty. Recruit founder Ezo was a "business genius," says Hayasaka. "But from the point of view of Japanese economic leaders, he was an outsider. He went hurriedly to become an insider." Ezo's stock options were not illegal, as long as he did not receive specific favours in return. Only one arrest for bribery, of a local official, has been made so far, but the Tokyo Prosecutors Office is expected to spring further indictments.

The LDP is now trying to calm public outrage, and has set up a special commission to recommend political reforms.

Hayasaka argues that limits on donations should be raised to more realistic levels and strict reporting be enforced if the costs of politics are not dealt with, he concludes, "then there will be another Recruit case in the future."

The Christian Science Monitor



Eastern Europe beginning to regain an identity

By Eric Bourne

VIENNA: One of the most intriguing aspects of this era of perestroika (restructuring) and improved East-West relations is the way in which Eastern Europe is beginning to regain an identity.

Soon after World War II, the Iron Curtain divided Europe, and the East became an amorphous conglomerate of countries. It later became known only for local national explosions at approximately 12-year intervals.

Following these periods of unrest, all reverted to regional conformity with the Soviet Union. So it was after Hungary's uprising (1956); the Prague Spring (1968); and, though not so completely, Solidarity's defeat in Poland in 1981.

Then — when everything in Eastern Europe was stagnating — Mikhail Gorbachev entered, signalling a "new deal" in international affairs. This development led to easier relations between the superpowers. It also opened up a new path to individualism for East Europeans.

Due regard for Soviet security interests is, of course, Gorbachev's sine qua non for such independence.

Hungary is already the case par excellence. This year it is taking a big leap forward toward a pluralist, democratized political system.

It is also calling boldly for fundamental change in the Soviet military, the Polish forces, though the best equipped and trained of the East European armies, could not be relied upon alone. Yet Poland might well be brought into the picture, as Eastern Europe continues to look less like a faceless forward area of the Soviet military and economic system and returns to the map of Europe as a stable region with differing national interests.

Poland, at last, seems to be moving cautiously in the same direction. A party Central Committee meeting on Dec 20-21 removed six "conservatives" from the ruling Politburo and replaced them with known "liberals" and young reformers.

Some of the speeches at this meeting revealed the strength of the hard-line opposition to the "constructive opposition" Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski has been appealing for. But the leadership, nonetheless, announced an immediate re-evaluation of its position on Solidarity. Significantly, Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski called his old antagonist, Lech Walesa a "political realist," as though the leader of the outlawed trade union had never been the "unperson," with whom the government disdained to talk for seven years.

For the time being, East Germany and Romania still balk at perestroika. The Czechoslovak regime, thus far just as reluctant, is now feeling the pinch and necessity to make some kind of start.

Vasili Bilak, a leading anti-Dubcek hawk in 1968, has stepped down. His successor as party ideologist is cast in the same mold. Spokesmen still scoff at rehabilitation of the lesser folk purged after 1968, let alone of Alexander Dubcek himself. But in politics, "never" is a boomerang word as Warsaw's U-turn on Walesa shows.

Human rights gatherings have begun to be tolerated. And a new premier has begun to act like a reformer.

Conversely

It is not a case of Prague's sudden conversion to perestroika and glasnost (openness). There is another consideration which, finally, all the East Europeans must take into account.

The Hungarians openly admit that the European Economic Community's plan to turn its Common Market into a single market by 1992 set alarm bells ringing in Budapest. No doubt among among Prague's backroom economists too. Hence Hungary's accelerated drive for an efficient market economy in order not to find itself cut off from this single European market when it comes about.

The Christian Science Monitor

unchanged. But no state within the East bloc has presented so clear a national image since the Yugoslavs broke out of the bloc in 1948.

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For the time being, East Germany and Romania still balk at perestroika. The Czechoslovak regime, thus far just as reluctant, is now feeling the pinch and necessity to make some kind of start.

But the decision is tinged with irony, as the main force behind delaying the meeting was Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the Nobel peace prize and built a world reputation for his efforts to bring the bickering nations of Central America together.

Arias said there remained unresolved differences on proposals to send an international observer force to the region, the main item on the agenda, and the new US administration had still to define its policies towards Central America.

Discontent

Latin diplomats said Arias was also influenced by growing domestic discontent in Costa Rica, where he has been accused of playing the international stage while an economic crisis grows, and his need to curry US favour so that it will assist his country in debt negotiations in the months ahead.

The biggest loser in the decision to postpone the summit

Shiite feud splits families, threatens Syria-Iran alliance

By Mohammed Salam

BEIRUT, (AP): The battle between rival Shiite Muslim factions for dominance of Lebanon's largest sect has pitted brother against brother, father against son, and jeopardizes the strategic alliance between their masters, Iran and Syria.

Amid the carnage of Lebanon's 13-year-old civil war between Christians and Muslims and the many bloody clashes by feuding militias, the Shiite conflict has split Lebanon's largest single sect down the middle.

Shiite sources said many families are divided, with some men fighting for the fundamentalist Iranian-backed Hezbollah, and some for the secular, pro-Syrian Amal militia.

More than 500 people, many of them civilians, have died and more than 1,500 others have been wounded since inter-Shiite rivalries erupted into open warfare earlier this year.

In Beirut's teeming slum slums, a Shiite bastion largely devastated by war, posters of Ayatollah Khomeini and Imam Moussa Sadr, Amal's charismatic founder who mysteriously disappeared in Libya in 1978, hang walls, indicating a unity among the 1.5 million Shites that does not exist.

Control For years they have struggled for control of the Shiite community, which is now one of the most powerful in Lebanon after decades of being down-trodden and exploited by the now-eclipsed Sunnis.

Hezbollah, the cutting edge of Khomeini's Islamic revolution abroad, seeks to create an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon.

It has built a social, educational and welfare network funded by Tehran, which has been pumping an estimated \$5 million a month into Hezbollah's

Postponement of regional summit

By Paul Iredale

MANAGUA, (Reuter): The elusive quest for peace in Central America, where about 100,000 people have died in guerrilla wars this decade, has suffered a further reverse with the postponement of a regional summit next weekend.

To Central Americans numbed by years of hollow political gestures and abortive peace plans, the decision by the region's presidents not to meet in El Salvador came as no surprise.

But the decision is tinged with irony, as the main force behind delaying the meeting was Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the Nobel peace prize and built a world reputation for his efforts to bring the bickering nations of Central America together.

Arias said there remained unresolved differences on proposals to send an international observer force to the region, the main item on the agenda, and the new US administration had still to define its policies towards Central America.

By Kathy Cuddihy
FOR me, travelling seems to be a cyclical activity. Not "seasonal" but cyclical, involving several stages of experience.

The first phase represented the common youthful phenomenon of having plenty of time but little money.

Years ago (far too many of them) I made my way around the world in the manner in which I believed real travelling should be done: on a one-way ticket to any particular destination, and with no time restrictions. This lack of commitment left me completely free to impulsively extend or abbreviate visits, depending on the mood of the moment. I thrived on the wonderful, exciting feeling of not knowing what the next day would bring.

Enjoying the superiority of youth, I viewed with disdain all those "tame" travellers who did nothing more intrepid on their trips than stay in five-star hotels, eat in classy restaurants and see the sights from the sterile comfort of an airconditioned bus. Real travellers would never succumb to such cosseting. Real travellers would live like the locals and make every effort to familiarize themselves with more than the tourist spots.

I usually found it difficult to understand people who didn't

Journey through time

subscribe to my fanatic philosophy. In those days, travelling on a rickety bus with chickens and other foul smells for companions was the height of "real" living. Ditto for eating "interesting" meals in cheap cafes. Of course, I was the first to admit that the waiting room of a remote railway station in the Australian outback might not be my preferred choice of overnight accommodation—especially when I had nothing but empty mail sacks to keep me warm.

And sure a sandy beach in Greece felt a lot different as a bed than as a daytime playground. But if this was the price of adventure, then I was happy to pay it.

During the second phase of my travels, my cash flow became more amenable but a busy schedule of responsibilities seldom allowed extended journeys. The more I experienced luxury travel, the more I came to believe that the trade-off between impecunious independence and financial freedom wasn't so inequitable after all. Sure, being out on the open road at the crack of dawn was

invigorating...but only if the weather put on a decent show. Waiting at airports isn't a lot of fun, but it

beats walking for miles in the cold or rain because no one wants a soggy hitch-hiker in their car.

Up-market travel also ensured that my food intake increased in both volume and variety. Rather than a steady diet of fruit, cheese, sliced meat, French bread, and an occasional bowl of thick soup, the selection expanded to include just about anything my cravings called for. In gorging myself with gourmet goodies, my immense satisfaction more than made up for the probable nutritional shortfalls.

While I maintain a great admiration for "real" travellers, I can't say I envy them. I've grown beyond a yearning to experience life in their terms. I've also grown beyond relishing true hardship—I get enough of that at home every day in trying to outlast and outwit my sights.

Nowadays my idea of roughing it is having to stay in a three-star hotel, or dragging the kids around museums, or compromising on lunch and ending up at McDonald's instead of Maxim's. Yes, I've become "soft," but it feels good, darn good. Besides, I feel that I put in enough miles during my Cycle One

travels to more than qualify me for lots of pampering during Cycle Two.

As the years go by, I realize, with perhaps a little relief, that Cycle Three probably isn't all that far away.

Cycle Three is the reward for life-long travellers who have endured the austerity of Cycle One and survived the excesses of Cycle Two. Cycle Three represents that period when the enthusiastic globetrotter can afford the best of both cycles: the time to seek out life's adventures (albeit the more cultivated ones) and the finances to enjoy them.

After a long truancy, I look forward to an ongoing series of one-way tickets to exotic destinations...all of which come well-equipped with luxury hotels, gourmet restaurants, and comfortable transport from which to view the local sights.

Of course, I'll no doubt have to suffer the disdain of a few Cycle One travellers as they energetically go about experiencing their "real" experiences at a far deeper level than "tame" travellers like myself.

Yes, Cycle Three demands concessions, but if comfort and convenience are the costs...then count me in.

Do you need liberating?

Have women won equality—or have they made a mistake by letting their superiority slip away? This quiz may set you thinking...

By Beverly Gilligan
Women's Movement free the fairer sex from the kitchen, sink, promote equal pay and prospects and leave women better off? Or did it merely erode the rights and privileges women have enjoyed for centuries? This quiz will reveal just how much of a liberated woman you really are...

- The local nursery insists that boys and girls spend equal time playing with dolls and cars. What is your reaction?
 - Bravo! Those kids won't grow up with stereotyped ideas of a "woman's place."
 - It's an interesting experiment, but you have your reservations.
 - What absolutely rubbish—teachers like that are not only mad, they're dangerous.
 - It might sound odd now, but no doubt we'll take it for granted in years to come.
 - Hell, they're only kids.
- A man you are attracted to asks you out to dinner. When the bill arrives you:
 - Lower your eyes modestly and wait for him to pay?
 - Suggest going dutch?
 - Snatch it out of his hand and insist on paying?
 - Fumble for your cheque book?
 - Make sure you're in the ladies room so neither of you will be embarrassed when he pays?
 - Kiss his hand?
 - Blush enchantingly and murmur how you love old-fashioned manners?
 - Smile delightedly and engage him in conversation?
 - Smile frostily and ask him what century he thinks he's living in?
- Most of your correspondence is addressed to you as Mrs. Does this:
 - Please you enormously—it's about time the sexiest terms Miss and Mrs. were dropped?
 - Make you furious, you want everyone to know you're lan-



a man with a family should earn more than a single person.

- Not bother you one way or the other?
- Think even Ms is unnecessary—plain Janet Brown is fine with you?
- Make you happy now you're used to it?
- You are staggering home with the shopping. Your (male) neighbour catches you up and offers to help you carry it. Do you:
 - Smack him in the chops with one of your shopping bags and say you are capable of carrying a few groceries?
 - Accept gratefully—you'd do the same for him?
 - Offload the lot into his arms? If he's daft enough to ask he might as well suffer.
 - Thank him, but tell him you'll manage?
 - Give him the heavy bag—he's bigger and stronger than you?
- You discover a colleague is being paid twice as much as you for the same job. He has a wife and four children. You are single. Do you:
 - Think it right and proper that

woman's place isn't only in the home, it's at work, on committees and even in Parliament. Centuries of conditioning are chaining you to what you think is a typical woman's role. Break that link and start being yourself.

22-32: You're a well balanced liberated woman of the world. And with your sense of humour, outgoing personality and strong identity you get the best of the old and the new. You're capable of being independent and enjoying it, but you won't be ungracious when someone offers you his seat or opens a door. You like men and women and are equally at home in either's company.

What your score means

You're probably married to a man who shares your views on equal opportunities and pay. He finds you a refreshing and exciting partner.

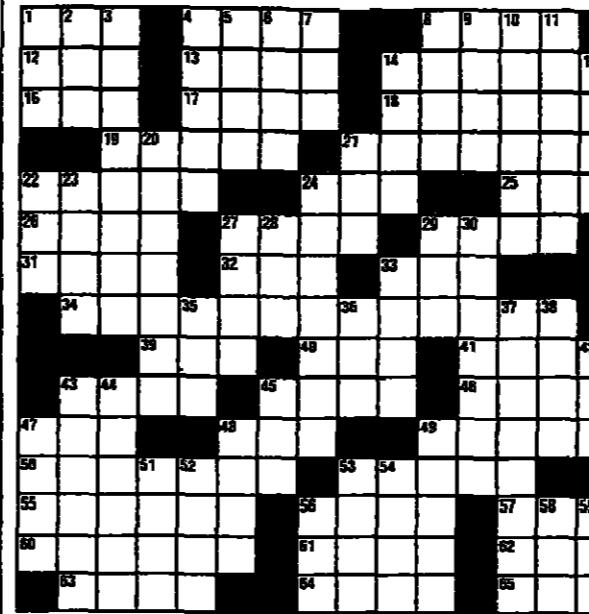
33-44: You're the sort who gives the women's movement a bad name. A bra-burnning bad-mouthed militant who needs a few lessons in the gentle art of appreciating others. Consideration, care and concern are not words you're familiar with. You look on all men as the enemy, and most of your sisters as pathetic and disappointing. Snap out of your "angry young woman" phase and start enjoying life and all it has to offer.

Now add up your score to see whether you need liberating.

SCORING:

a	b	c	d	e
1. 4	3	0	2	1
2. 0	2	2	4	3
3. 4	2	0	2	1
4. 4	0	2	3	1
5. 4	2	2	3	0
6. 0	1	4	3	2
7. 4	0	3	2	1
8. 2	4	0	1	3
9. 1	3	2	4	0
10. 0	3	2	1	4

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 With it 50 Rock star 29 Unhappy
4 Server's edge 53 Dovetail part 30 Rock stars
8 Fly 55 Turkish inn 33 Popular name
12 Musical talent 56 Roll's parrot 35 Yore
13 Springsteen, with "The" 57 Parrot 36 Ark builder:
14 Sweethearts 60 Property transfer Var.
16 Compass dir. 61 Rock star, e.g. 37 Estrange
17 — Chaplin, nee 62 letter 38 Italian resort
O'Neill 18 Grayish green 40 Double agent 42 Dot
color 65 Hot time, in 43 Glossy paint
Paris 19 Jet 44 Title for 44 Pompeadour
21 Rock stars, with 65 She's "sweet" 45 Pompadour
"The" 22 Anagram for 66 as apple cider"
alter 46 Between 47 Between
24 Dell choice 1 Female lobster 48 Poker stake
25 Owing 2 Janis of Rock 49 Tarsus
26 Leo's pride 3 Attendance 51 "Mourning
27 Leg joint 4 Circa Becomes
29 Con game 5 Way in Electra" character
31 Snaps 7 Student gp. 52 Aerie
32 List ender: 9 Pet's peeve 53 Commotion
Abbr. 10 Mrs. Marcos 54 Sci. of
33 Yippee! 11 Hymn of praise 55 environment
34 Caller's device 14 At liberty 56 Ewer's edge
39 Yalle 15 Part of a ticket 57 Bananat of song
40 Basballer 16 Order: Abbr. 58 The first lady
Guidry 20 Rock star 59 Till
41 Muse of history 21 Short farewell 59 Wallis Simpson
43 Terrapin 22 Electricity abbr. 60 Etta
45 Nice notion 23 Cafe au — 61 Wear Strom
47 Literary 24 Products of
collection 27 French military
48 Burbs 28 A degree 62 Charles de Gaulle
49 "...the —

DOWN

1 Female lobster 48 Poker stake
2 Janis of Rock 49 Tarsus
3 Attendance 51 "Mourning
4 Circa 56 Ewer's edge
5 Way in 57 Bananat of song
6 — It 58 The first lady
7 Romantic 59 Till
8 Student gp. 60 Wallis Simpson
9 Pet's peeve 61 Etta
10 Mrs. Marcos 62 Charles de Gaulle
11 Hymn of praise 63 Wear Strom
14 At liberty 64 Pompeadour
15 Part of a ticket 65 She's "sweet" as apple cider"
order: Abbr. 66 Between
20 Rock star 67 Between
21 Short farewell 68 Pompeadour
22 Electricity abbr. 69 Wallis Simpson
23 Cafe au — 70 Etta
24 Products of 71 Wear Strom
the stars 72 Charles de Gaulle
27 French military 73 Pompeadour
cap 74 Wallis Simpson
28 A degree 75 Etta
76 —

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TIME TO CHANGE HORSES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH ♠ K J 5

♦ 8 4

♥ K 10 7 4

♦ Q 10 9 3

WEST ♠ 7 4 3

♦ 9 8

♥ A Q 6

♦ J 10 9 5 2

♦ 9 2

♦ 8 6 3

♦ A K J 8 7

♦ 5 4 2

SOUTH ♠ A 10 6 2

♦ K 7 3

♥ A Q J 5

♦ 6

The bidding:

South 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠

West 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠

North 2 ♠ 3 NT 4 NT

East 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠

Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1989

International Bond Highlights

LONDON: Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp is issuing a 200 mln Canadian dollar Eurobond due Aug 28, 1996 paying 10-5/8 pct and priced at 101-1/4 pct, lead manager Banque Nationale de Paris said. (XOKA 0953) The European Economic Community is issuing an 80 mln Canadian dollar Eurobond due March 28, 1991 paying 11-1/4 pct and priced at 101-5/8 pct, lead manager Chase Investment Bank said. (XOKA 0920) Babcock Finance Inc is issuing a 75 mln Canadian dollar Eurobond due Feb 8, 1991 paying 11-1/2 pct and priced at 101-1/2 pct, lead manager Merrill Lynch Capital Markets said. (XOKC 1502) New York L.F. Rothschild and Co Inc is withdrawing as a primary dealer in US government securities. (XOKY 1410) Morgan Stanley & Co Inc said. (XOKZ 1169) Paris: The 8-3/4 Eurobonds for Norst Hydro launched last Thursday had been increased to 600 mln francs from 500 mln, lead manager Banque National de Paris said. (XOKZ 1448) London: Royal Trust Mortgage Co is issuing a 100 mln Canadian dollar mortgage backed Eurobond due 1994 paying 10-7/8 pct and priced at 101-5/8 pct, lead manager Salomon Brothers said. (XOKC 1547) Zurich: Japan's Kanagawa Credit Kosen Co is issuing a 40 mln, five-year Swiss francs bond issue priced at 100-3/4 pct, lead manager Industrial Bank of Japan said. (XOKB 0946) Switzerland's Forbo AG plans a 30 mln Swiss franc three year bond with warrants to buy participation certificates. (XOKW 0819)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 13-1/8 1/16	13-1/8 1/16	13-1/8 1/16
FFT 5-15/25	5-45/55	5-60/65
PAR 8-3/8 1/2	8-3/8 1/2	8-7/16 9/16
ZUR 4-3/8 4-5/8	5-1/4 5-1/2	5-3/4 5-5/8
BRK 5-95	7-5/8 7/16	7-1/2 9/16
RON 11-1/4 11-3/4	11-3/4 12-1/4	11-3/4 12-1/4
AMS 5-87/00	5-83/93	5-93/03
TOK 3-25/32 27/32	4-9/32 11/32	4-16/32 18/32
ECU 7-68 7-93	7-87 8.00	8.06 8.18

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	6-11/16	7-3/16
3 months	7-1/2	7-15/16
6 months	7-5/8	8-1/16
1 year	7-3/4	8-1/4

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	75.50	74	75 WICO	590	575	585
ACC 327	328	332	GRASIM	81.50	80.75	81.25	802.50	805	775
ASIA PAINT 215	213.75	217.50	GSFC	145	143.75	145	OKRAY	27	27
BAJAJ AUTO 401.25	396.75	402.50	HIND LEVER	71	70.50	71	PEICO	24	22.50
BAR. RAYON 310	305	310	HINDALCO	166.50	166.25	167	PFIZER	69	68
BOM. DYEING 117	116	119.50	HINDCOCA	103.75	102.50	105	PRE-AUTO	43.25	44.75
BRK 103	101	103	HINDMOTOR	28.25	28	28.5	RAYMOND	73	72.50
BSE INDEX 642.35	644.39	646.39	IND ORG	42.50	43	42.50	RELIANCE	133.12	132.50
CENTURYSP 1365	1360	1375	INDRAYON	83	82.50	82.50	SIEMENS	83	84
COLGATE 307.50	307.50	308.75	INDROL	265	265.75	262.50	SPIC	50.50	49.75
DEPAK FERT 41.50	40	41	ITC	49	46	47	STHILLS	245	240
EI. HOTEL 57.50	55	57.50	JCSYNT	83	81	82.75	TATA PWR	365	365
ESKAYEF 136.25	135	135.75	L AND T	123	123	126	TATACHEM	107	105
ESSAR 23.25	23.50	23.50	MAHINDRA	84	82.50	84	TELDO	707.50	705.75
GR. POLY 85	82.50	83.75	MASTERSHR	15.85	15.50	16	TISCO	1145	1146
GE. SHIP 38.25	38.25	38	MATHER PL	62	60	61	VOLTAS	530	530

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE
AEG	194.2
ALLIANZ VR	1874.0
BADENWERK	180.0
BASF	280.0
BAYER	301.0
BAYER HYP	381.0
BAYER VER	387.0
BBC	360.0
BHF	422.0
BWU	514.0
COMMERZBK	248.0
CONTI GUMM	262.9
DAIMLER BEN	708.0
DEUTSC BNK	551.0
DLW	57.50
DRESDNER B	306.0
DIT. RABCOCK	151.0
FAT. INDEX	3,664.50
FEUDENBERG	296.0
FEUDSCHULD	390.50
FEUDER	423.0
HARPER	297.2
HOECHST AG	180.2
HOESCH	184.0
HORTEN	221.0
HUSSEL HLD	447.0
KALI SALZ	185.5
KARSTADT	413.0
KAUFHOF	405.0
KLOECK H	130.2
KLOECK W	129.0
LINDE	758.0
LUFTHANSA	155.0
MAR	237.5
MANNESMAN	203.0
MERCEDES	560.0
NETALLIGES	371.5
NIXDORF PF	321.9
NOKSY NRD	38.30
PHILIP KOM	663.0
PORSCHE	620.0
PREUSSAG	202.0
PVA	261.1
RHEINMETAL	420.0
RHE	226.0
RHE P	212.8
SALANANDER	348.8
SCHERING	602.0
SEL	282.0
SIEMENS	522.0
THITSEN	189.3
VARTA	357.0
VERA	273.0
VOVSKAGEN	331.1

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR-CLSE	MITSUB CP	1480	1500
AIJINOMOTO	2960	2940	MITSUB EST	2670
AKAI ELEC	705	695	MITSUB HVY	1160
AOKI	1120	1110	MITSUI CO	1080
ASAHI GLS.	2000	2040	MITSUKOSHI	2270
ASAHI OPT.	745	720	MITSUMI EL	1000
BANK TOKYO	1690	1680	NICHICON	1290
BRIDGESTON	1400	1420	NIKON CHNT	1000
CANON	1530	1550	NIKKO SEC	2180
CASIO COMP	1380	1360	NIP ELEC	2000
CHUGAI PHM	1650	1640	NIP KOKAN	986
CITIZEN W	936	939	NIP OIL	1530
D-ICHI KAN	3520	3500	NIP STEEL	921
DAI NIP IK	883	895	NIP YUSEN	902
DAI NIP PT	2650	2680	NIS MOTOR	1280
DAI NIP SC	1000	990	NOHARA CO	975
DAI NIP TO	881	920	OLYMPUS	1140
DAICEL	884	889	PENTA OCN	1010
DAIDA H	9460	9500	PIONEER SPC	3410
DAIDA SEC	9430	9700	RENOH SPC	930
EBRD MFG	1180	1180	RENOH SPC	930
EISAI	2150	2160	RICOH	1220
FUJITSU	1560	1560	SAIKYO	2440
FUJI BANK	3800	3800	SANYO ELEC	798
FUJI PHOTO	3700	3720	SEIYU ST	2180
FUJISAWA	1880	1870	SEKISUI PB	1900
FUJITA CP	999	992	SHARP	1170
HITACHI	1690	1680	SHISEIDO	1820
HONDA MOT	2160	2170	SONY	7390
ISETAN	2570	2420	SUMITOMO	1410
ITOKO YAKADO	4550	4600	TAISEI	1260
JAP SYN RU	1200	1200	TAISHO MRM	1390
JAPAN AIR	16800	16900	TAKEDA CH	2720
KAJIMA	1830	1830	TEIJIN	849
KANSAI EL	5340	5480	TKO NEW IX	448.93
KAO SOAP	1780	1780	TOKIO MNR	2280
KARUT	3150	3150	TOKYO ELEC	1300
KAMAKASAKI	941	965	TOYKO GAS	1340
KIRIN BREW	1990	1980	TOYKO PWR	7260
KOMATSU	982	998	TOSHIBA EL	1090
KUBATO LTD	929	930	TOTO	2070
KYOCERA	5160	5110	TOYO KOGY	780
NAKATA EL	1600	1600	TOYOTA MOT	2630
NARUT	3150	3150	YAMAHA	1340
NATSUMA EI	2600	2610	YAMAICHI	2110
NATSUTA EL	0	2660	YAMANOUCHI	4160
NEIJI SEIKI	976	989	YAMAZAKI	1450

Sterling steadies

Dollar dives and stocks mixed

LONDON, Jan 17. (Reuter): A new year rally by the dollar and stock prices ran out of steam today in financial markets suddenly cautious about forthcoming US trade figures.

Oil prices surged with North Sea Brent crude crude about 30 cents a barrel higher at \$17.20 a barrel for February delivery. Gold rose to just below \$402 an ounce.

The Tokyo Stock Market sagged. The Nikkei average, which soared more than 1,000 points into record territory last week, fell 70.86 points or 0.23 per cent to 31,227.52 today.

Down

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chips, which almost reached its highest level since the crash of 87 yesterday, was little changed around 1,870 points at mid-trading.

The dollar was one pfennig and more than half a yen down around 1,847.5 marks and 127.60 yen as investors waited to see the extent of the US November trade deficit which will be announced tomorrow.

\$5.40 billion oil projects being built in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Jan 17. (OPECNA): The Iraqi State Oil Company for Oil Projects (SCOP) is currently engaged in implementing projects throughout the country at a cost of nearly \$5.40 billion.

According to the English-language daily "Baghdad Observer" on Sunday, the projects implemented by the company so far include gas processing units, oilfield development, oil transportation schemes, as well as the second stage of a strategic pipeline linking Iraq's northern and southern oilfields.

About 39 different oil projects have been executed by the company through the direct implementation method which involves some of the oil ministry's affiliated oil companies.

Pipelines

The projects, estimated at about \$750 million, include the laying of 300,000 km of 10 to 24 inch pipelines in various parts of the country for transportation of gas oil derivatives and crude. Some 200 oil storage facilities with an overall capacity of two million cu. metres have also been set up in Beiji, Kirkuk, Baghdad, Basra, Kut and Nasiriyah.

The company, an affiliate of the Iraqi oil ministry, is also responsible for designing and executing oil installations.

During 1988, the company's designs division was responsible for the preparation of tender documents for the development of the north Rumaila project, the central oil refinery, the Luhais oil-field and all projects executed directly by Iraqi firms.

Computers

Meanwhile, SCOP is planning to fully computerise its designs division. When the system is completed in the second half of 1989, it will become possible to draw up highly sophisticated plans and carry out complicated technical calculations.

In accordance with the new system, personal computers will be introduced so that draftsmen no longer have to do their work manually.

It is an excellent move, says bank chief

Nigeria opens industry to foreign ownership

LAGOS, Jan 17. (Reuter): Nigeria's military President Ibrahim Babangida has announced that wide areas of manufacturing industry were being opened to 100 per cent foreign ownership.

In a weekend speech reported in today's newspapers and on state radio, Babangida said the new policy was aimed at attracting investment and encouraging the private sector to take the lead in building up the economy.

"What accrued from past policies that involved government's huge investment were white elephant projects that could neither yield revenue nor their way," he declared.

Responsible

The old policies were responsible for unemployment, underdevelopment and shortages of raw materials, he added.

Babangida announced a major change in the country's enterprises promotion decree, which restricted foreign investment in broad areas of Nigerian business to a 40 per cent stake.

A wide range of businesses were now open to unlimited foreign involvement, and a foreigner putting up 20 million naira (\$2.9 million) or more would be free to operate in restricted areas involving the small manufacturing, commercial and service sectors.

Economists have predicted a deficit around \$11.3 billion up from \$10.4 billion in October. Several dealers said it would take a really bad number to depress the dollar, which speculators have been buying strongly. To check inflation, US interest rates are being kept high and might rise further. That offers a good return on interest-bearing dollar assets.

Strong

"Profit taking before tomorrow's US trade figures pushed the dollar off yesterday's closing level, but sentiments remain strong for the US currency," a Japanese dealer in London said.

Sterling was steady around 3.27 marks supported by forecasts that British interest rates will also keep high.

But the strength of the dollar and pound may be worrying the West German Bundesbank, since a weak mark means higher import costs and a risk of inflation in the German economy.

A rise in the Bundesbank discount rate, now 3.5 per cent,

Nissan's exports drop

Toyota announces record production

TOKYO, Jan 17. (AP): Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automaker, today reported record highs for production and sales in Japan last year, while No. 2 Nissan Motor Co. said overall production fell slightly and exports dropped by more than 11 per cent.

Toyota said its 1988 production totalled a record 4.24 million vehicles, up from the previous record of some four million in 1986.

Overseas production, which rose 27 per cent to 244,210 autos last year, will increase 82 per cent to 450,000 this year, due to increased output in the United States, Canada, the Philippines and Taiwan, it said.

Friction

Toyota's 1988 exports were 1.82 million vehicles, up 2.5 per cent, including 1.23 million passenger cars, up 3.3 per cent. But exports are expected to fall two per cent this year to 1.78 million.

Nissan reported total 1988 vehicle production of 2.71 million, down 0.1 per cent from 1987.

Domestic sales and overseas production grew, however, with domestic sales rising 13.5 per cent to 1.16 million. Overseas production was 549,016, up 11.9 per cent, and is expected to grow to a record high of 632,000 in 1989, up 15 per cent.

Nissan production in the United States fell 6.5 per cent to 206,000 autos in 1988, but is expected to grow 18.4 per cent to 244,000 this year.

But overall exports fell 11.2

per cent to 1.04 million, while exports to the United States plunged 36.5 per cent to 348,000.

Nissan did not reveal a target for exports to the United States this year, but said they were certain to rise with the introduction of several new models to the US market this year.

3.3 points, standing at 1521.8

An early decline on Wall Street contributed to the downward slide in share prices, while some of the recent speculative favourites fell victim to light profit-taking.

Gilts were down one-eighth after yesterday's upturn on news of the retail sales slowdown.

Bid

Supermarkets were up on press reports of a possible bid for Gateway and the better-than-expected interim results from ASDA. Gateway rose 7p to 175p, ASDA gained 3p to 140p and William Low rose 7p to 256p.

Hillsdown gained 6p to 252p on talk of the sale of its US interests and Ranks Hovis rose 6p to 378p on Goodman Feller stake speculation and comment on brands valuation. Capital Radio rose 9p to 618p on advertising revenue potential.

Profits

Profit-taking hit Wimpey, down 7p to 289p, Vsel, down 10p to 445p, Laing Properties, down 15p to 485p, and International

City, down 5p to 88p, Glaxo, worried by the strength of the pound, fell 11p to 1055p.

Hammerston ordinary shares fell 17p to 945p and a shares fell 32p to 879p on Radameco's revised bid plans, while profits reports pushed A.G. Barr down 15p to 663p, Plumb Holdings down 8p to 194p and Ross Consumers down 5p to 93p.

Harland Simon gained 29p to 403p on Maxwell stake speculation, while speculative activity pushed Brammer up 7p to 236p, Perry Group up 6p to 202p, Savoy up 10p to 835p, Ex Co of Louisiana up 7p to 107p, Local London up 11p to 485p, Patterson Zochonis up 6p to 297p and Securities Archives up 9p to 162p.

Trading news helped Hampshire Industries gain 2p to 81p and Court Furnishers gain 2p to 159p. Eurotherm rose 5p to 583p and a successful drug launch pushed Amsterdam up 7p to 520p.

Amstrad lost 6p to 157p on broker downgradings, and Calor fell 4p to 373p over worries about the mild winter weather.

Plan to set up power grid interconnection in the Mideast

ANKARA, Jan 17. (AP): Turkey and four Middle East countries today agreed to set up for the first time a power grid interconnection in the region.

The energy ministers from Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Jordan decided to start preliminary studies for the project immediately, Turkish Minister Fahrettin Kurt announced at the end of two days of talks here.

Kurt said the Islamic Development Bank would finance the cost of the preliminary studies with a grant.

A technical team will hold a meeting in Jordan in March with the bank authorities to choose a

country to host the power grid interconnection.

Egyptian Energy Minister Maher Abaza told the Associated Press that each country would finance the cost inside their territory for the project.

Abaza added that the cost for the connections of the network systems between the capitals of the five countries would be financed with an Islamic Development Bank credit.

Muhittin Babakoglu, the head of the Turkish Electricity Authority, said the project would be completed in about two years.

Abaza said there were plans to extend the system to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in the future.

Turkey set up a power connection with Bulgaria in 1975 and the Soviet Union in 1979.

Islamic banks to finance projects in Sudan

ABU DHABI, Jan 17. (Reuter): Islamic banks have agreed to finance projects to help Sudan, the official emirates news agency WAM reported today.

The International Islamic Banks Union (IIBU) board decided in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, this week to set up a committee to study the projects. WAM quoted IIBU deputy chairman Said Lootah as saying.

"We will concentrate on farming, manufacturing and communication projects that will yield the highest possible return for Sudan's economy," Lootah, chairman of the Dubai Islamic Bank, said.

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Free-spirited family thrives on controlled chaos

Bush to bring a new style to the White House

By Norman D. Sandler

WASHINGTON (UPI): In examining the personal side of the political transition set to take place on Jan 20, at least one basic observation is in order: Ronald Reagan talked about family values, George Bush practises them.

Over the last eight years, the first family at times has been grist for the tabloids and soap operas, torn by tension, stung by sniping and dogged by unwanted attention.

Kiss-and-tell memoirs by former aides have depicted the president as unengaged and the first lady as worrisome, protective and even ruthless, with a fine taste for fashion, a keen political antenna and a sharp sword.

However, all of that will be history at noon on Jan 20.

Bush has made clear his determination to be a take-charge president, with more of an eye for detail than Reagan. Barbara Bush will be a more outgoing First Lady than Nancy Reagan, who will use the White House as a bully pulpit to advance the fight against illiteracy just as Mrs Reagan used it to help spearhead the war against drug abuse.

Home

It has been said that George Bush has 5,000 close friends. And there is little doubt that he and his wife, Barbara, will bring a more relaxed, congenial atmosphere to the executive mansion, along with a free-spirited family — close-knit and competitive — that thrives on what son Marvin Bush describes as "controlled chaos."

The Bush home, on a jut of land along the coast of southern Maine, is filled with pictures of the family at work and play. And for the next four years, the White House — like the house in Kennebunkport — will be filled on frequent occasions with the



George Bush with an Easter bunny on the White House lawn last year.

sounds of children and informal entertaining.

Unlike Reagan, who ventured out in public only in controlled situations, Bush has a penchant for spontaneity. And while Nancy Reagan was portrayed as obsessed by style, Barbara Bush pokes self-deprecating fun at her silver hair or larger figure.

Also unlike the Reagans, the Bushes have made a wide range,

of friends over the years. Their social circle extends beyond longtime friends to acquaintances from politics, business, the arts and even the media.

There is no reason to believe any of that will change. Look for the new president and first lady both to be out in public more than their predecessors and to invite a more diverse group of guests into the White House.

They five children and 10 grandchildren will be frequent visitors, either to the White House, the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, or the family compound in Maine.

Bush has vowed to place his personal imprint on the White House by having a horseshoe pit installed on the South Lawn. At Camp David, Bush, an avid sportsman and outdoorsman,

and his family will be able to unwind in ways not possible at the White House with jogging, tennis and other activities at their fingertips.

Holidays

Holidays may see the Bushes bouncing over wind-whipped seas in his speedboat in Maine, shooting quail in Texas or bonefishing in Florida. Notoriously energetic, the Bushes will be president and first lady on the go.

Not surprisingly, the Bushes have confessed to some trepidation about moving into the White House after eight years of relative freedom and low-profile living in the more comfortable surroundings of the vice-president's official residence, located on the spacious wooded grounds of the US Naval Observatory along Embassy Row in northwest Washington.

Though the fulfillment of an ambition that dates back a decade or more, the White House, despite the perks of power, will subject them to the confinement and lack of privacy they have been able to avoid over the last eight years.

Security will be tighter and their movements more closely watched and controlled. Mrs Bush has expressed her reluctance at having to trade the spacious grounds of the Naval Observatory for the fish bowl environment of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

However, she need not despair.

Marilyn Quayle has invited her to return to the wooded grounds whenever she likes to walk her dog, Millie, on the 1.25-mile (km) path that runs along the perimeter of the grounds. And as president, Bush too will motorcade back to their residence of the last eight years on a regular basis — to jog and escape the pressures of the Oval Office in well-guarded surroundings out of public sight.

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Security will be tighter and their movements more closely watched and controlled. Mrs Bush has expressed her reluctance

RUGBY

Fouroux to step down at end of season

AGEN, France, Jan 17. (Reuters) Jacques Fouroux will step down as French Rugby Union coach at the end of this season, French Rugby Union president Albert Ferrasse said yesterday.

In an interview with Reuters, Ferrasse said former captain Daniel Dubroca would replace Fouroux for an interim period before handing over to current skipper Pierre Berbizier.

Fouroux has been heavily criticised for his concentration on forward power at the expense of the traditional French running game.

"Next year Daniel Dubroca will probably take over for an interim period in waiting for Pierre Berbizier to be ready to accept the post on a permanent basis," Ferrasse said.

Ferrasse criticised English officials for allowing Toulouse coach Pierre Villepreux, an outspoken critic of Fouroux, to train the England squad in Portugal last week without asking permission from the French federation. "There is an unwritten tradition which has always been respected between us and the British," he said.

"It involves never contacting a player, referee or trainer of a federation without its agreement. Curiously, the English forgot to do so and I don't think that is a very good thing. I hope it will not happen again."

Ferrasse said rugby union would never be played at the Olympics because it was practically the last sport to remain amateur.

"Formerly at the Games, people used to compete for the flag," he said. "I am not sure if in Seoul every athlete was fighting just for his country. Money is elsewhere."

"That's why the rugby World Cup is a good thing because we control it."

"We keep out the money-makers thanks to the strict management imposed by the British. Like me, they are all attached to true amateurism."

Teague and Oti back for England

LONDON, Jan 17. (Reuters) Exciting winger Chris Oti and number eight Mike Teague are back in the England Rugby Union team for their opening Five Nations Championship match against Scotland on February 4.

Oti returns for his third cap after recovering from a knee operation. He replaces Andrew Harriman, who played in the famous 28-19 win over Australia in November before he also had to have a knee operation.

Oti made his international debut against Scotland last March and in his first appearance at Twickenham made history with a hat-trick of tries against Ireland.

Teague, winning his fourth cap, last played for his country in New Zealand in 1985. He replaces Dave Egerton after some impressive performances at regional level.

Expect

Full back Jon Webb, who is also recovering from a knee operation, expects to prove his fitness over the next two weeks.

England: Jon Webb: Rory Underwood, Will Carling (captain), Simon Halliday, Chris Oti; Rob Andrew, Dene Morris: Dean Richards, Mike Teague, Wade Dooley, Paul Ackford, Andy Robinson, Paul Rendall, Brian Moore, Jeff Probyn.

EVERGREEN, inspired by an unbeaten century by skipper Razzaq, beat KIFCO Cricket Club by 75 runs in the final of the Pirelli Trophy to clinch the title at the Abdullah Salem Ground earlier this week.

Evergreen were given a good start by their openers Ejaz and Inam who put on 125 runs for the first wicket. Spinner Riffat got the breakthrough for KIFCO in the 19th over when he bowled both Ejaz and Inam for 53 and 55 respectively.

Struck

This brought Razzaq and Dawood to the crease and both of them put on 150 runs for the 3rd wicket. Riffat struck again when he had Dawood lbw for 58 with the score at 275.

Babar did not last long and could only score six runs before he was caught off Riffat. Evergreen lost three more wickets before they reached 326 in their 45 allotted overs.

Razzaq remained not out on 118 which he scored with the help of two sixes and seven fours. Riffat took four wickets for KIFCO while Ameen captured two.

WALSH TO RESIGN AS SAN FRANCISCO COACH

49ers' Rice may miss Super Bowl

MIAMI, Jan 17. (AP) The thought of playing a Super Bowl without wide receiver Jerry Rice is enough to nauseate any San Francisco 49er fan. Or player. Or coach.

It's not something the National Football Conference champions will have to stomach on Sunday. Despite the ankle injury Rice suffered in practice yesterday. Just ask any 49er—or any Cincinnati Bengal.

"If he can't walk, he'll play," Joe Montana said. The 49ers back knows his all-pro receiver isn't about to let his first appearance in the US professional football championship hinge on a twinge six days before kickoff. "Believe me, he'll play. I'll drag him out there."

If he doesn't do the dragging, Bengals coach Sam Wyche might.

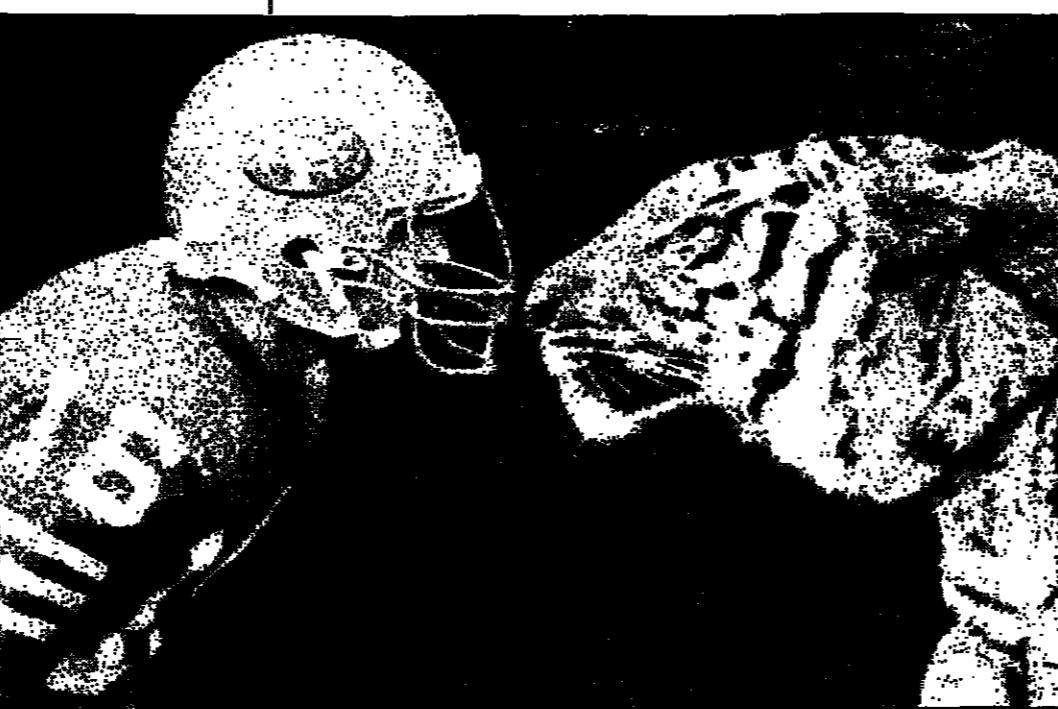
Best

"This is a game where the two teams should be at full strength," Wyche said. "I hope he can play. Jerry Rice is one of the best players they've got and one of the best players in the League. I hope all of them play, on both sides."

Rice left San Francisco's practice after injuring his right ankle and was listed as questionable for his rematch of the 1982 Super Bowl, San Francisco's first of two National Football League championships. In the minds of the medics, there might be a question.

As for Rice's teammates and opponents, forget it.

"He's the man you want to get the football to," Cincinnati pro bowl safety David Fulcher said of Rice, who when healthy is the



San Francisco Marine World trainer Pat Martin-Vogue dons quarterback Joe Montana's number as he poses for pictures while facing off with a 450 pound Bengal tiger. (Reuter wirephoto)

most dangerous receiver in the game.

When Rice's ankle finally healed earlier this season, the 49ers went on a four-game tear that boosted them to the NFC West title. In those four games, Rice averaged five receptions for 104 yards.

"He's our gamebreaker," Montana said. "That's no secret. And you go to your big-play guy in big games. That's not a secret either."

Bill Walsh worried that Rice's ankle injury might keep him

from practicing for the rest of the week.

"So much of our offense is related to Montana getting the ball to Rice and without that timing and that week of work, it reduces our effectiveness," the coach said.

For six weeks this season, Rice had trouble taking it to anybody. Because of the sprained ankle and the tendinitis that followed, he didn't have more than four receptions in any of those games and scored only once. Because San Francisco didn't have

another deep threat, the team slumped.

In the playoffs, with the ankle strong and the tendinitis gone, he has 10 catches, half of them for scores—his first postseason touchdowns.

"You can't take a Jerry Rice away from an offence," Fulcher said. "He's going to get his catches. I'm sure he'll be there Sunday to get his catches."

"You have to try to control him. He will make catches and make yardage. When he catches the football, somebody has to be

around him and give him something to remember."

In a week that rarely has any hard news, Rice already has given the gathering news media something to remember and concentrate on. The other players seemed to be relieved in facing queries about what Rice means to the 49ers rather than about what is the cosmic significance of this game.

"The only way you can become the best is to face the best and play better yourself," said 6-foot-3, 228-pound Fulcher, Cincinnati's most rugged and most improved defensive back. "I'm pretty sure everybody wants him to play. I can't think that he's hurt. I've got to think he will be there. And that we'll be there to take him on."

Feeling

While the 49ers wondered whether Rice would play in the Super Bowl, owner Edward DeBartolo Jr said in a separate interview he has a feeling Walsh will resign a few days after the game.

"He just wants to wait till after the season's over," DeBartolo said in an interview published in today's editions of the San Francisco Chronicle and the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

"He's told me that. Basically, he's told (the media), too. I really believe that Monday, probably, or maybe Tuesday, at the latest, he'll (make an announcement)."

DeBartolo put at no better than 20 per cent the odds that Walsh would coach the 49ers again in 1989, the newspapers reported.



Isiah Thomas (right) attempts a shot over a Celtics' guard.

Hornets beat 76ers to end losing streak

NEW YORK, Jan 17. (AP) The Charlotte Hornets proved a few things yesterday.

The Hornets proved they could win on the road and they proved they could beat a quality team.

Kelly Tripucka scored 40

points, including nine in overtime, as Charlotte beat the Philadelphia 76ers 127-122 yesterday to snap an 11-game road losing streak.

It was the Hornets' 10th victory of the season and the first time they have beaten a team playing over .500 twice. On Dec. 17, the Hornets beat the 76ers 109-107 in Charlotte.

"It's so important that we have some success for our effort. We've played hard all year and had some tough losses," Hornets coach Dick Harter said. "Kelly and Rex (Chapman) were magnificent."

A basket by Chapman, who scored 25 points, gave the Hornets the lead at 120-118 with 1:21 left in overtime. Tripucka and Tyrone Bogues scored baskets to make it 124-118 with 50 seconds remaining, putting the game out of reach.

In other National Basketball Association games yesterday, New York defeated San Antonio 116-106; Atlanta beat Washington 117-106; Cleveland routed Phoenix 126-110; Denver edged Sacramento 116-110; the Los Angeles Lakers ran past Houston 124-113; Detroit defeated Boston 96-87; and Golden State defeated Seattle 146-117.

Nuggets 116, Kings 110

Walter Davis scored four of his season-high 29 points in the third quarter as Cleveland turned back a Phoenix rally and beat the Suns 126-110.

Pistons 96, Celtics 87

Isiah Thomas scored six of his 16 points during a 13-3 fourth-quarter run, helping the Detroit Pistons to a 96-87 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Warriors 146, Supersonics 117

Chris Mullin scored nine of his 31 points to spark a 16-10 run at the start of the third quarter, leading the undersized Golden State Warriors to a 146-117 victory over the Seattle Supersonics.

Lakers 124, Rockets 113

Mychal Thompson came off the bench to score 13 points without missing a shot in the first half as the Lakers remained the only NBA team with a perfect home record this season.

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Nebiolo and Barra face judicial investigation

ROME, Jan 17. (AP) Primo Nebiolo, the former president of the Italian Track Federation (FIDAL) and his closest aide, Luciano Barra, today were given

formal notice that they are under investigation in connection with alleged irregularities in the management of Italy's athletic governing body.

Antonio Vinci, the Rome magistrate who issued the notices, investigating allegations that FIDAL resorted to manipulations and abuses in negotiating contracts with commercial sponsors and with private companies entrusted with the construction of tracks and other facilities.

A spokesman for FIDAL confirmed that the notices were handed to Nebiolo and Barra, a for-

mer general secretary of FIDAL.

Court sources in Rome said the two track officials may face charges of falsifying public documents and using their positions for private advantage.

Nebiolo, 64, who heads the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)—the governing body of world's athletics—resigned his post at FIDAL on Jan. 7, ending a 20-year presidency in the wake of a streak of scandals involving officials of the Italian federation.

Nebiolo claimed in recent interviews that he was the victim of political feuds. He's a known rival of Arrigo Gattai, the chairman of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) which prompted investigations into FIDAL's wrongdoings.

Cameroon race attracts 350 athletes

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, Jan 17. (AP) An international group of 350 athletes will race to the top of the mountain of Char des Dieux (Chariot of the Gods) in late January, race officials said today.

The 10,400-metre (13,335 ft) mountain, at one end of a volcanic chain in the western part of this dual English and French-speaking country is the highest peak in West and Central Africa.

Among the competitors, 13 are from Britain, 11 from the United States, seven each from Switzerland and from France, two each from West Germany and Australia, and one each from Belgium and New Zealand.

The 29-kilometre (11-mile) race to the top of the peak is now in its 14th year. Jack Maitland of Britain set the record in 1988 for the fastest ascent in two hours, 25 minutes and 20 seconds.

Cameroon competitors took the laurels in 1986 and 1987 with Timothy Lekunze beating an international field.

Evergreen rout KIFCO for title

EVERGREEN, inspired by an unbeaten century by skipper Razzaq, beat KIFCO Cricket Club by 75 runs in the final of the Pirelli Trophy to clinch the title at the Abdullah Salem Ground earlier this week.

Evergreen were given a good start by their openers Ejaz and Inam who put on 125 runs for the first wicket. Spinner Riffat got the breakthrough for KIFCO in the 19th over when he bowled both Ejaz and Inam for 53 and 55 respectively.

Struck

This brought Razzaq and Dawood to the crease and both of them put on 150 runs for the 3rd wicket. Riffat struck again when he had Dawood lbw for 58 with the score at 275.



The Evergreen squad with other officials.

KIFCO, requiring over seven runs per over, opened their innings through Arshad Shams and Tariq. KIFCO suffered their first setback when Arshad was out for only five runs. Ejaz and Shahid got two wickets each. Zagar and Shabbir chipped in with one each.

Razzaq remained not out on 118 which he scored with the help of two sixes and seven fours. Riffat took four wickets for KIFCO while Ameen captured two.

all the players by Gary Nicolson, the manager of Pirelli Construction Co. — the sponsors of the tournament.

Riffat was named Best Bowler, Razzaq got the Best Batsman award. Razzaq was named Best Fielder and Ejaz Ahmed was given a special prize by Sheikh Arshad.

Gulf Air Trophy

STARLITE will meet National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Cricket Club in the semifinals of Gulf Air Trophy at the Sabah Al Salem Area (NCA) Ground on Friday.

Umpires will be one each, from Crown and Lucky Stars Club and the match will commence at 9.00 am.

In the afternoon, Lucky Stars will face Crown Cricket Club in a KCL League match starting at 1.00 pm.

SKYLARK Cricket Club

SKYLARK Cricket Club scored a 21-run victory over Hilti Cricket Club in a Gulf Cricket League match at the EPI ground earlier this week.

Skylark skipper Archie Meneses won the toss and elected to bat.

Skylark put on 118 for the loss of eight wickets in the 23 allotted overs.

Captured

Victor D'Souza was the top scorer with 27 while Arbabukar hit 20 and Archie Meneses 11. For Hilti the main wicket-taker was Shabir with three for 13 while Naveed captured two for 21 and Salim and Hozam

New team to make debut in Oman rally

DUBAI, Jan 17: The Mitsubishi Rallart team, which stormed to victory in the 1988 Marlboro Desert Challenge and BP 2000 Manufacturers' Trophy, has announced that its 1989 line-up of three Pajeros will be sponsored by Marlboro. The new team, called Marlboro Team Mitsubishi, will make its debut in Oman tomorrow.

Qatari star Abbas Al Mosawi will be number one driver in the long-wheel-base 250 bhp Pajero, which he drove to victory in the 1988 Challenge. Kuwait veteran Tareq Al Wazzan, runner-up in the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge is also featured in the line-up. 1986 Group A Middle East champion Mamoud Khayat from Saudi Arabia will pilot the third vehicle.

"This is a very good team we have put together," said team manager Mike City of Dubai's Al Habtoor Motors. "Not only can we expect one of our drivers to win the championship, but we can also expect to be in with a significant opportunity of retaining the Manufacturers' Championship."

The first round of the 1989 series — the Marlboro/BP Trophy 2000 takes place in Oman this weekend, with a two day 813.54 kilometre event including 330.84 kilometres of 10 special stages. The event takes place on Thursday and Friday, but will be preceded by a "prologue" tomorrow, which will dictate the starting order of the top ten vehicles in the rally.

Strongest

"I am particularly pleased to have Tareq Al Wazzan join our team," said 27-year-old Al Mosawi. "He has been my strongest rival for the past two seasons now."

In all twenty teams are expected to take part in the event. The strongest opposition for the red and white Pajeros is expected to come from the hybrid Land Rover 110 of Abdulla Omar (UAE) and Michel Saleh (Lebanon) in a Range Rover.

The 1989 Deseri Challenge will comprise five rounds including Qatar for the first time with a BP 2000 sponsored event. The next round after Oman will be the BP 2000 Trophy, Bahrain on March 30/31.

Portsmouth dismiss Ball

LONDON, Jan 17. (Reuters): Manager Alan Ball was dismissed today by English Second Division soccer club Portsmouth after nearly five years in charge.

The club have lost five of their last six matches and dropped to 13th in the 24-strong division.

Ball played 72 times for his country and was a member of England's World Cup winning side of 1966. He is replaced by his deputy John Gregory.

Under Ball's control Portsmouth were promoted to the First Division in 1987 after nearly 30 years' absence only to be relegated the following season.

France favoured

PARIS, Jan 17. (Reuters): FIFA president Joao Havelange gave a strong hint today that France would start favourite to stage the 1998 World Cup soccer finals.

In an interview with the sports newspaper *L'Equipe*, the head of soccer's world governing body said France, which is bidding for the finals along with Brazil, Morocco and Switzerland, already had the necessary security, hotels, transport and communications.

Pakistan name side for tour opener



Miandad: to miss first match

WOODFORDE KNOCKS NOAH OUT OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Navratilova and Sabatini sail through

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 17. (AP): Martina Navratilova and Gabriela Sabatini scored speedy first-round victories today as they began their challenge to top-ranked Steffi Graf in the \$2.4 million Australian Open tennis championships.

Three-time Australian champion Navratilova crushed West German Andrea Betzner 6-0, 6-1, while Sabatini, playing in Australia for the first time, beat Cecilia Dahman of Sweden by an identical score.

Struggled

"I think I am playing really well," said third-ranked Sabatini, who beat Graf twice last year. "I think I have a good chance to win a Grand Slam event this year."

Navratilova simply overpowered Betzner.

"I'm enjoying tennis more than I have for the past few years. My body isn't hurting any more," said the 32-year-old Czech native.

West German teenager Graf, winner of all four Grand Slam tournaments last year, began her Australian Open campaign yesterday with a victory over Australian Kerry-Anne Guse.

In first-round men's singles action today, second-seed Ivan Lendl, third-seed Boris Becker, fourth-seed Stefan Edberg and seventh-seed John McEnroe all advanced to the next round.

Mark Woodforde emerged victorious from a four-hour centre court battle with eighth seed Yannick Noah of France in the last match of the day and the best of the championship so far.



Becker hits a forehand while on the run. (Reuter wirephoto)

Woodforde won 6-4 6-7 6-2 6-7 6-4 in a match full of Noah pyrotechnics and superbly crafted rallies which finished under lights at 1:30 am.

Noah beat Roger Smith of the Bahamas in last year's first round in five sets, the last going to 16-10, but he could not repeat his Houdini trick this year.

Two seeded US women fell today — seventh-seeded Barbara Potter and ninth-seeded Lori McNeil.

Powerful New Zealand left-



Lendl hits a backhand drive against Mironz. (Reuter wirephoto)

champion Edberg downed big-hander Belinda Cordwell beat Potter 6-3, 6-3, while Japanese player Yuki Koizumi, 30, beat McNeil 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

Koizumi, ranked 202 in the world to McNeil's 13th and playing in only the second Grand Slam tournament of her career, coached for 10 years before joining the international circuit last year.

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